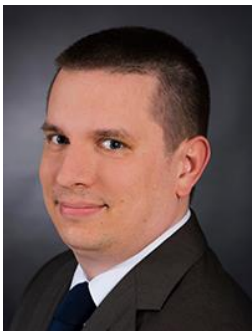

Summer University for Young Professionals 2017

Speaker BIOS



Dušan Fischer is a Marshall Center Alumni Scholar currently with the Research Center of the Slovak Foreign Policy Association. Among his research areas are international and European security, NATO, and U.S. foreign policy. He graduated from American Studies at the Heidelberg University and from the Program on Applied Security Studies at George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Previously, he worked at NATO HQ Supreme Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia. He lectures on the topics of American studies, European and transatlantic security at the Comenius

University. Dušan contributes and reports on the issues of contemporary America, NATO, and European security to Slovak and foreign media.



Lóránt Györi is a sociologist and political analyst, with a master's in social sciences from Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, where he is currently continuing his PhD studies. He is one of the main authors of the renowned Russian Influence report. He coordinated and co-authored country-reports on Russian political and cultural influence in Hungary, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Slovakia, and Poland. He also co-authored a paper on the far-left's involvement with the Kremlin, which was published on the Institute of Statecraft website. He is involved in the Russian disinformation monitoring in the framework of the Beacon Project established by the International Republican Institute.



Dr. **Matthew Rhodes** is a professor of national security studies at the Marshall Center. He arrived at the center in 2003. His principle interests include U.S. foreign and security policy, transatlantic relations, and Central and Southeast European security issues. Dr. Rhodes previously served as assistant professor of strategy and international security at the U.S. Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama from 1999-2003; assistant professor in the department of political science at Central College, Pella, Iowa from 1998-1999; and Jan Hus Foundation Academic Mentor in the department of politics and European studies at Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech

Republic from 1997-1998. Dr. Rhodes earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997 and a bachelor of arts degree in government and German from Lawrence University of Wisconsin in 1990.



Orsolya Rács is an Analyst at Global Risk Insights, Orsolya specializes in defence and security issues in the EMEA region, with a focus on non-proliferation, counter-terrorism and intelligence sharing. She previously worked at the European Central Bank, the European Parliament, the Berlin-based Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, and a Hungarian think tank. Orsolya holds an MA in Non-Proliferation and International Security from King's College London and an MSc in Politics and Communication from the London School of Economics.



Dr. **Robert Ondrejcsák** is the State Secretary/Deputy Minister of Defence, Slovakia. He is responsible for NATO and EU related issues (including NATO's enhanced Forward Presence, missions abroad, partnerships, EU's Battle Groups, PESCO), as well as regional cooperation, international security affairs or creation of strategic documents. He studied political sciences, history and philosophy and received PhD. from international relations. During his professional career, he worked at Ministry of Defence in various positions, including head of the Ministry's thinktank, and two times as a State Secretary/Deputy Minister (2010-2012 and 2016 – present). He initiated and led the first ever Strategic Defence Review in Slovakia, as well as the White Book on

Defence, was active in V4 defence cooperation, including V4 Battle Group, and various strategic-level projects at NATO and EU level. Besides that, he established the Bratislava security policy think-tank STRATPOL - Strategic Policy Institute, was a director of the Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs (2007-2010 and 2012 – 2016), Deputy Head of Mission/Counsellor of the Slovak Republic's Embassy to Hungary (2005-2007). He was a lecturer at several universities (international security, US foreign policy, geopolitics, conflict studies) and regular guest speaker at George C. Marshall Center (Garmish-Partenkirchen). He led several transitional and consultancy projects in Ukraine, Georgia, Afghanistan and Serbia in the field of security sector reform.



Miroslav Mizera works as a Special Adviser to Deputy Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic. In 2016, he worked as an Adviser to Deputy Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic. In 2014 – 2015 he occupied the post of Head of Secretariat for Slovak EU Presidency 2016 at the Ministry of Defence, between 2010 – 2014 he worked as Adviser to successive Deputy Ministers at Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic in 2010 – 2014. He graduated from Matej Bel University and completed studies at Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium. In 2012, he graduated from George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in

Garmish-Partenkirchen, Germany, and International Visitor Leadership Programme, United States, and several courses at NATO School Oberammergau. In 2013 – 2014 he successfully completed expert courses at Slovak National Defence Academy and EU's European Security and Defence College.



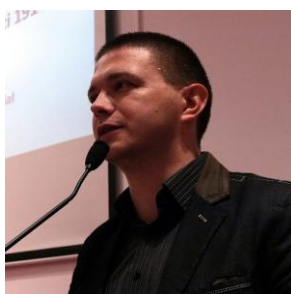
Elemír Nečej graduated from University of Economics in Bratislava in 1974 and from Education and Psychology at the Military School of Education in Bratislava in 1994. In 1999, he finished specialized postgraduate studies in European Integration and European Union at the Faculty of Management, Comenius University in Bratislava. As a military professional, he served in the former 14th Armoured Division, at the military secondary school of aviation and by the Military Authority of Financial Security. In the years 1997 – 2002 he worked at the Centre for Strategic Studies and the Section of Defence Planning and Resource Management at the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic. After working as a professional military personnel, he became an analyst at the Institute of Security and Defence Studies, Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic and at the Strategic Studies Center of the National Defence Academy in Liptovský Mikuláš.



Pavol Kosnáč is an independent scholar based in Bratislava, Slovakia. He studied comparative religion studies in Bratislava and Oxford, focusing on new religious movements, Christianity, and Islam. He is interested especially in new and alternative religiosity, as well as overlaps between religion, violence, and war. For the last three years, he studied motivations of foreign fighters and members of paramilitary organizations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.



Ondřej Rojčík works as a Head of Strategic Information and Analysis Unit at the Czech National Cyber Security Centre since early 2016. In this role, he is responsible for leading the development of strategic analysis capabilities and coordination of analytical activities in the area of cyber related security threats. He previously worked as an analyst of international security issues at NATO HQ Brussels and at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic. Ondřej holds MSc degree in Security Studies from University College London and PhD degree in International Relations from Masaryk University Brno.



Przemysław Wywiół graduated from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and the Academy of National Defence in Warsaw. He earned his PhD in History with a specialisation in Military History. Former National Security analyst at the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland. Currently working at the Institute of Security and Citizen Education of the Pedagogical University in Cracow. His principle interests include Polish security strategy, territorial defence, paramilitary organizations and irregular warfare.



Amb. **Adam Sterling** is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, he served from 2013-2016 as Deputy Chief of Mission and twice as Chargé d' Affaires in the Netherlands. He also served as Deputy Chief of Mission and twice as Chargé d' Affaires in Azerbaijan from 2010- 2013. From 2006-2009 he was the Director for Central and Eastern European Affairs on the National Security Council staff at the White House. His other Washington assignments were as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Europe (2005-06) and as a desk officer in the Office of Central Asian Affairs (1995-97). Prior to joining the Foreign Service in 1990, Mr. Sterling worked for the Mayor of New York as a liaison to the United

Nations and the New York-based foreign consular corps. He earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a Bachelor's degree from Grinnell College in Iowa.



Dr. **Richard Q. Turcsányi** is an acting director of the Strategic Policy Institute – STRATPOL based in Bratislava, Slovakia. He received Ph.D. in international relations from Masaryk University, where he also studied economy and political science. In the past, he conducted long-term study and research stays at the University of Toronto, Peking University, National Chengchi University in Taipei and European Institute for Asian Studies in Brussels. In Slovakia, he has been active in Demagog.SK as Senior Analyst and Project Coordinator and as the Deputy Director in Institute of Asian Studies. Currently he is also an Assistant Professor at Mendel University in Brno and

Associate Research Fellow at Institute of International Relations in Prague. Richard has broad experience with lecturing on international relations, security and economic issues of Central Europe and East Asia. In his academic research, he focuses mostly on Central Europe's relations with East Asia and Chinese foreign policy.



Lucia Yar received her post-gradual degree in Political Science at the Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences at the Comenius University in Bratislava, researching on EU's External Action Service in Turkey. After spending several months working at the European Commission in Brussels, she relocated to Istanbul. Since 2012 she has been an active media contributor and analyst, focusing on Turkey, Middle East, European Neighbourhood Policy and security. In 2015, Lucia Yar joined the team of the Secretariat for the Slovak

Presidency at the Council of the European Union at the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic. Since 2017, she has been acting as a Senior Editor at EurActiv.sk and as an External Lecturer of Turkish Studies at the Comenius University in Bratislava.



Dr. **Maryna Vorotnyuk** is an Associate Fellow at STRATPOL – Strategic Policy Institute based in Bratislava, Slovakia. She is an expert on security developments in the Black Sea region, Ukrainian and Turkish foreign policies and South Caucasus. Currently, she works as a visiting lecturer at the Department of Political Sciences of Comenius University in Bratislava. She has a profound teaching experience – lecturing courses on Diplomacy in International Humanitarian University (Odessa) and Theories of international relations and Conflict studies in Odessa Mechnikov National University where she was a research fellow of the Center for International Studies (2006-2013). Dr. Vorotnyuk has taken part in numerous programs and fellowships, namely EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Fellowships (2016), High Level Experts Program of the German Foreign Office (2015), National Security Policymaking Institute of the US State Department (2013), Black Sea Young Reformers Fellowship of the Black Sea Trust of the GMF and Robert Bosch Stiftung (2012) and Peace Research Course of Oslo University (2007).



Col **Jozef Zekucia** entered the service in the Czechoslovak Army on 1 September 1989. He graduated from the Army College in Vyškov na Moravě, Czech Republic in 1993 and since then has served in numerous logistic assignments. In May 2005, Col Zekucia was selected to serve as the Staff Officer Multifunctional logistic, G4 on Allied Land Component Command Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany from which he later deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation ISAF from August 2007 to February 2008. Beginning March 2010, he assumed command of the 16th Slovak Contingent in Operation KFOR, Kosovo. Currently, Col Zekucia is assigned as the commander of the newly formed Slovak NATO Force Integration Unit. Col Zekucia holds a Master Degree in Military Economics - Fuel Provision. His military education includes Junior Command and Staff Officers' Course, Senior Command and Staff Officers' Course at the Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik in Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia, Defence and Operational Planning Course at the Netherlands Defence College in The Hague, Netherlands and various courses at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany.



Petr Luňák is a Deputy Section Head of Engagements of the NATO Public Diplomacy Division. He is responsible for the public diplomacy of the Alliance. Mr. Luňák is a member of the Czech Foreign Service and in the past he served as a Vice President of the Department of Political Planning at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. After that, he has joined the International Secretariat of NATO. Petr Luňák received a Ph.D. at Charles University, where he specialized in international relations and modern history.



Peter Bátor is a Head of Security Policy Division Office of the President of the Slovak Republic. He has worked as diplomat, analyst, policy adviser and speech writer for numerous top level expert and political representatives, including the President of Slovakia, ministers, deputy ministers and ambassadors. His diplomatic experience include posting to the Permanent Delegation of Slovakia to NATO in Brussels, where he served as Deputy Permanent Representative and Chief Political Adviser to the Slovak Permanent Representative. Mr. Bátor held various positions at the Slovak Ministry of Defence, including Director of International Crisis Management and Arms Control Division, NATO analyst, and legal adviser (international law). Throughout his career, Peter Bátor has focused on foreign and security policy, with special emphasis on NATO, Western Balkans and international conflicts. He is founder of the first Slovak cyber security web portal.

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