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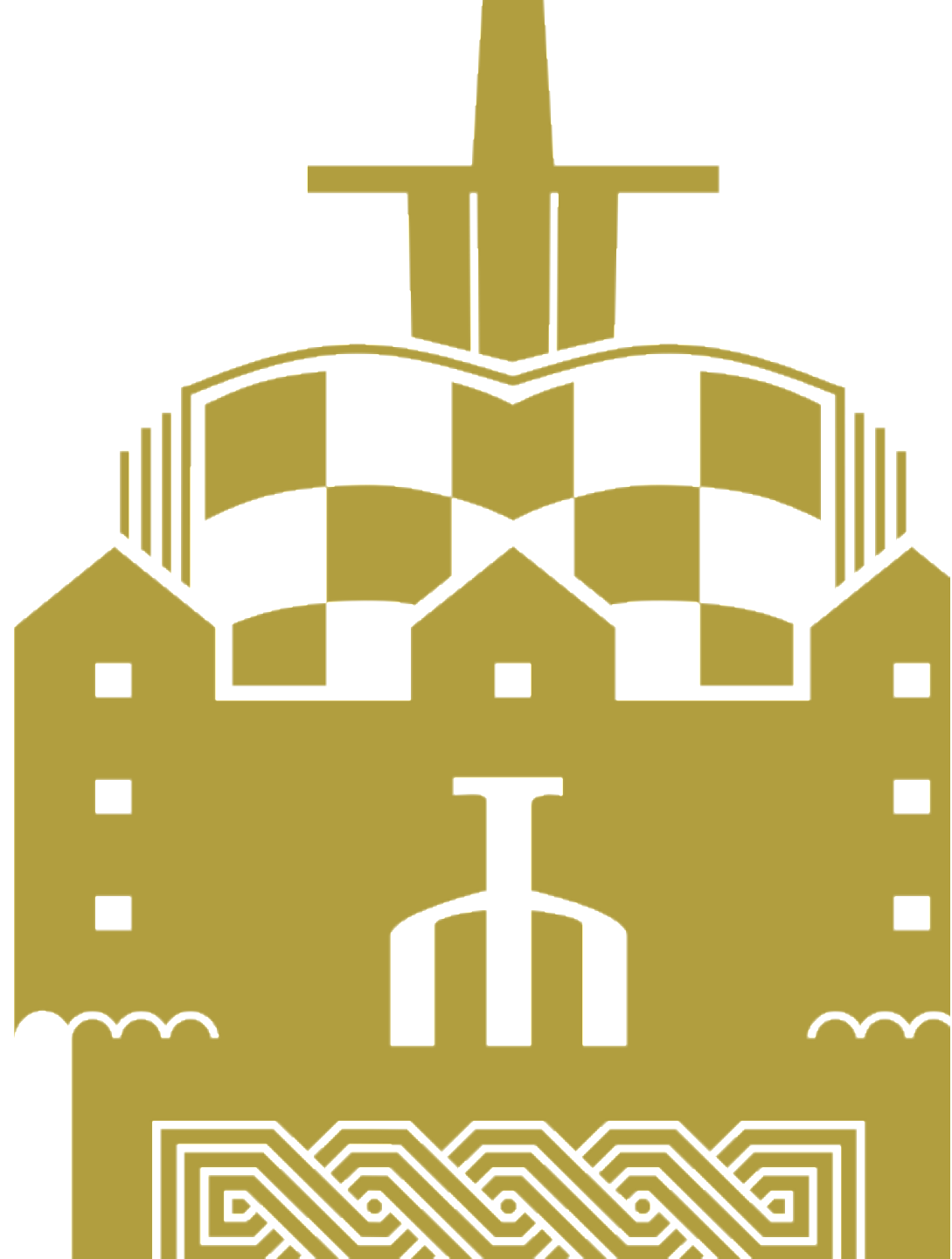
Hybrid Threats against NATO and EU in the 21st Century: A Case Study of Montenegro

Insights from the Zagreb Security Forum 2025

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Introduction

- Definition of hybrid threats
- Relevance for NATO and EU
- Focus on Montenegro as a frontline state



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Research Questions
and Purpose

- What hybrid tactics target Montenegro?
- How do these tactics impact NATO/EU processes?



- Coordinated use of military, economic, political, informational, and cyber tools
- “Hybrid” = blurred lines between peace, crisis, conflict
- Sources: NATO/EU definitions, literature



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Russian Hybrid
Activities in
Montenegro

- Political and institutional infiltration
- Election interference, cyberattacks
- Economic leverage (energy, investments)



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Information
Operations

- Disinformation campaigns targeting society
- Manipulation via media, church, and social networks
- Examples from 2016–2023 election cycles



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Paramilitaries and
Regional Networks

- Training and deployment of proxy groups
- Parallels with actions in Moldova
- Impact of Orthodox networks and external funding



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Institutional and
Societal Vulnerabilities

- Gaps in legal frameworks, cybersecurity
- Internal divisions exploited by hostile actors
- Delays in EU integration reforms



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Responses and
Recommendations

- Legislative reforms, digital resilience
- More robust NATO/EU cooperation
- Educational and civil society initiatives
- Monitoring foreign investments



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Conclusion and
Takeaways

- Montenegro as a model for hybrid defense
- Multidimensional threats require agile, multi-sectoral countermeasures
- Regional collaboration is essential

