



AI: Governing the Game Changer

Impacts on human
rights, democracy
and the rule of law



**HIGH-LEVEL
CONFERENCE**

Co-organised by the Finnish Presidency
of the Council of Europe Committee of
Ministers and the Council of Europe

Helsinki, Finland
26-27 February 2019

www.coe.int/freedomofexpression/AIHelsinki2019
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PRESIDENCY OF FINLAND
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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Impacts of artificial intelligence development on human rights, democracy and the rule of law

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With the emergence of new tools that employ artificial intelligence (AI) in the form of machine learning techniques, we are witnessing another technological revolution. Progress and innovation have always been driving factors for societies and the way we live, yet, AI-based technologies stand out as a game changer with the potential of affecting the core of our societies. While their benefits can be manifold, they raise complex and urgent legal, ethical, policy and economic questions with thus far uncertain implications. Clearly, however, their impact on peoples' enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and on the functioning of democratic institutions and processes is significant. As a result, they require careful analysis and decisive action.

As AI development affects individuals, communities and institutions at multiple, interconnected and interdependent levels, the topic must be approached comprehensively. The Conference's objective is to engage in a critical and inclusive discussion with global leaders from different spheres for a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Organised around the three main pillars that constitute the Council of Europe core values, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, panel discussions will address the challenges and opportunities of AI development for individuals, for societies, and for the viability of our legal and institutional frameworks, and will explore options for ensuring that effective mechanisms of democratic oversight are in place.

Coordinated action at global level is indispensable to build an atmosphere of credibility and accountability around the development and application of AI, to make the most of its potential for societies, their peace and prosperity, and to prevent any use of AI to the detriment of human rights and democratic systems.