



DFD-YD/ETD (2024) 259

Strasbourg, 20 November 2024

## Consultative Meeting

### HOW CONFIDENT?...

### Artificial Intelligence, Young People and Youth Work



A consultative meeting about the developments in generative AI and their impact on young people's human rights, youth work and youth policy in the context of Council of Europe standards and approaches.

22-23 January 2025  
European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France

CONCEPT NOTE  
**CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

## 1. BACKGROUND

In a world that becomes increasingly digitalised, the exercise and fulfilment of one's own human rights become more dependent on one's own capacities to access, utilise digital resources and critically engage with digital technologies and environments. While digital environments provide people with additional opportunities of engagement and development, they also pose significant challenges to the realisation of human rights and to the development of participatory democracy. These trends have been further accelerated by technological developments and deployments, particularly after the emergence of generative Artificial Intelligence machines and tools and the expectations raised for its development and application in all spheres of human activity and interaction.

Artificial intelligence technology offers humanity great possibilities, but also comes with serious potential risks to the enjoyment of human rights, the functioning of democracy, and the observance of rule of law. The Council of Europe has undertaken to address these risks in a comprehensive manner conducive to innovation.

In May 2024 the Council of Europe adopted a [Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law](#). This convention is a first-of-its-kind global legally binding instrument designed to ensure that AI upholds common standards in human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to minimise the risk of those rights and principles being undermined as a result of the use of AI. The convention adopts a risk-based approach to the design, development, use, and decommissioning of AI systems, which requires carefully considering any potential negative consequences of using AI systems.

For example, as regards the risks for democracy, the treaty requires parties to adopt measures to ensure that AI systems are not used to undermine democratic institutions and processes, including the principle of separation of powers, respect for judicial independence and access to justice.

Young people are particularly concerned, both positively and negatively, by digitalisation of virtually all aspects of our societies. Developing their competencies to both engage critically and autonomously in the digital era, and to take part in decision-making about such developments, are necessary components of supporting young people to be fully autonomous and active citizens.

In the youth sector of the Council of Europe, this has been approached from an early stage, with several activities that emphasised the importance of Artificial Intelligence literacy, as reflected in the [Declaration on Youth Participation in AI Governance](#) (2021). Young people have placed concerns about the impact and, credibility and inclusiveness of AI at various meetings and fora, such as the Action Week for Democracy (2022) and the event Confidence in Tomorrow (2024).

The increasingly central place of AI in the concerns of young people is also reflected in the programme of study sessions held at the European Youth Centres and in other recent activities, such as the 8<sup>th</sup> Arab-European Youth Forum dedicated to Intercultural Dialogue in the times of Artificial Intelligence and the Asia-Europe on Youth, Digitalisation and Intercultural Dialogue.

These priorities are reflected in the [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#), in which Internet Governance and AI are understood in relation to their impact on democracy and young people. Their importance have been strengthened by the Reykjavik Summit Declaration and the recognition of youth participation and agency if promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Joint Council on Youth at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting (October 2024) reiterated the importance of addressing the impact of AI for young people's rights, notably in view of the forthcoming 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference of Ministers of Youth (Malta, October 2025).

From a research perspective, the Partnership between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the field of youth has published [Insights into Artificial Intelligence and its impact on the youth sector](#). These provide an overview of what AI is and its impact on young people's rights (well-being, employment, education, civic rights) and the youth sector at large. It looks at initiatives developed by the major international organisations, and national practices, while questioning the participation of young people in AI governance. It also explores the perception of youth work towards it, in particular the perceived benefits and challenges, and makes recommendations for youth sector stakeholders (young people and youth leaders, youth workers, policy makers and youth researchers).

It is in this context that Council of Europe Youth Department organises this consultative meeting bringing together experts and stakeholders of the youth sector to reflect how to best address the concerns around AI and young people through youth work and youth policy processes and standards.

## **2. PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING**

The consultative meeting will bring together experts and practitioners in youth policy and AI matters, including youth work and human rights education practitioners, with the aim to develop a shared understand of the impact of AI on young people's rights and propose measures about ways to address them through youth policy and youth work. Specifically, the meeting is expected to:

- Explore and review the potential benefits and risks of AI on young people and the ecosystem of youth work and youth policy in Europe;
- Identify principles and guidelines to address those risks through youth policy and youth work and to ensure that AI benefits are accessible and relevant to all young people within the principles of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law;
- Proposals measures and instruments to reflect those principles and guidelines in policy and standard-setting documents (e.g. policy guidelines and recommendations) as well as in programme orientations for the Youth Department, including the education and training programme of the European Youth Centre and the European Youth Foundation.

## **3. PARTICIPANTS**

The consultative meeting will bring together some 20 experts and practitioners, representing the main stakeholders involved in Artificial Intelligence, youth policy and youth work in the Council of Europe, including:

- Members of the Advisory Council on Youth and of the European Steering Committee for Youth;
- Youth organisations and other civil society actors;
- Researchers and experts on Artificial Intelligence and young people;
- Other Council of Europe sectors active in Artificial Intelligence and concerned by the scope of the Consultative Meeting.

All interested candidates must pre-register on <https://youthapplications.coe.int/> by **10 December 2024**.

#### 4. PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The meeting will be held at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg. Board and lodging will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre.

The European Youth Centre is accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide all the necessary information in your registration form.

The working language of the programme will be English.

Travel expenses and visa fees will be reimbursed according to the rules in place.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Everyone intending to take part in the Consultative Meeting is kindly invited to fill in the online pre-registration/Application form available at <https://youthapplications.coe.int/>

The Council of Europe secretariat may pre-select and prioritise participants in view of complying with the available financial resources, securing diversity and representation of various stakeholders and areas of expertise as well as geographical representativity of the whole group.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

**Deadline** for pre-registration: **10 December 2024**, 23:59 CET

#### 5. DRAFT PROGRAMME

*NB: This programme is merely indicative; the final programme is being developed and will be shared with the meeting participants at a later stage.*

##### **Tuesday, 21 January**

Arrival and registration of participants at the European Youth Centre

19:00 Dinner

##### **Wednesday, 22 January**

09:30 Opening of the meeting

- Introduction of the participants

- Expected results, programme and working methods of the meeting
- Welcome address by Tobias FLESSENKEMPER, Head of the Youth Department (tbc)

10:45 Break

11:15 Introduction to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law and the "HUDERIA" Methodology of risk assessment, with NN,. Secretariat of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence

Questions and answers about the relation with youth work and youth policy, notably in relation to the youth perspective.

12:45 Lunch

14:30 Exploring Artificial Intelligence impact on young people's human rights and lives

16:00 Break

16:30 Reviewing existing work and progress on AI and young people

- In the youth sector of the Council of Europe
- By youth organisations
- By other partners and stakeholders.

18:15 Conclusions and closing of the day

18:30 Reception

Self-organised dinner in town

## Thursday, 23 January

09:30 Introduction of the day

09:45 Artificial Intelligence and ongoing youth policy processes in Europe (e.g. Framework on Youth Perspective, Conference of Ministers, Digital governance...)

10:45 Break

11:15 Guidelines and principles for furthering youth participation and inclusion in Artificial Intelligence development and policy processes

12:45 Lunch

14:15 Proposals for measures and approaches for a youth perspective on Artificial Intelligence

- Standards and instruments in the Council of Europe
- Youth policy and youth work processes
- Youth programme, including Education and Training activities
  - o Revitalising pluralistic democracy
  - o Young people's access to rights
  - o Living together in peaceful and inclusive societies
  - o Youth work

16:30 Presentation and summing of proposals

18:00 Debriefing and closing of the meeting

Self-organised dinner in town

## **Friday, 24 January**

Departure of participants