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SEMINAR

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: **HOW CAN YOUTH TAKE PART?**

24-27 November 2020
European Youth Centre, Strasbourg

In the framework of the German Presidency of the Council of Europe

Concept Note
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline for applications: **28 October 2020**

The Council of Europe and Artificial Intelligence

The Council of Europe has initiated a wider dialogue to address various concerns about the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Democracy and Human Rights. In this regards it is looking to establish multi-stakeholder co-operation and engage in concrete actions, including possible legal frameworks. An important milestone was the high-level conference *Governing the Game Changer – Impacts of artificial intelligence development on human rights, democracy and the rule of law*, organised in Helsinki in February 2019, under the Finnish Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. The conference explored ways to ensure that emerging technologies are designed, developed and applied to create value for individuals, for democratic societies and the viability of legal and institutional frameworks.

In September 2019, the Council of Europe took its work a step further and set up the Ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI), which is mandated by the Committee of Ministers *to examine the feasibility and potential elements on the basis of broad multi-stakeholder consultations, of a legal framework for the development, design and application of artificial intelligence, based on the Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law.*

The Committee of Ministers has also adopted a [Recommendation on the human rights impacts of algorithmic systems](#) in April 2020 which urges member states review their legislative frameworks and policies as well as their own practices with respect to the procurement, design, development and ongoing deployment of algorithmic systems to ensure that they are in line with the guidelines of the recommendation.

Youth and Artificial Intelligence

The Council of Europe youth sector aims at enabling young people across Europe to actively uphold, defend, promote and benefit from the Council of Europe's core values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, notably by strengthening young people's access to rights, deepening knowledge about youth and broadening youth participation. Equality of opportunities and young people's active citizenship will also be impacted and shaped by AI. The youth sector's strategy thus calls for improving institutional responses to emerging issues affecting young people's rights and their transition to adulthood including the effects of artificial intelligence digital space environment.

AI is already shaping and conditioning the way information is delivered, political opinions and forms of participation are shaped, and the very understanding of what are and are not acceptable levels and forms of privacy, transparency, diversity, non-discrimination, and oversight in data collection, processing and use. The less visible dynamics and impact of AI on young people may be the projection of dreams or myths, but their existence or speculation needs to be taken into account by anyone concerned with youth policy and the well-being of young people.

It December 2019, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe organised a seminar on Artificial Intelligence and its Impact on Young People, to explore the issues, role and possible contributions of the youth sector to ensure that AI is responsibly used in democratic societies and that young people have a say in matters that concern their present and future. The seminar affirmed the importance of associating young people as experts and legitimate stakeholders who should seek for their proper spaces in AI decision-making processes at all levels. Empowering young people to act as multipliers and ambassadors of change requires intentional purpose and synergies between different institutions / bodies that are active in the

AI field. The seminar called for investing in the capacities of young people to become responsible active digital citizens and proposed nine areas of action:

Youth participation

- AI literacy
- Data literacy
- Youth (digital) work
- Research and knowledge
- Standards and legal frameworks
- Youth policy
- Multi-stakeholder approaches
- Beneficial use of technology.

The seminar report is downloadable from www.coe.int/en/web/youth/artificial-intelligence

The 2019 seminar was the starting point for a longer process of learning and acting for a closer youth involvement in AI related matters and for youth policy and youth work stakeholders to take an interest in AI literacy and participation.

This work continues with the seminar "How Can Youth Take Part?" which is organised in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

THE SEMINAR

The seminar is positioned within a wider framework of different steps already taken by the Council of Europe for making the link between AI and democratic citizenship. Its role is to further transform the conclusions from the seminar on AI and young people, by exploring issues, challenges and roles that potential stakeholders can have to secure the participation of young people in AI decision making processes at all levels. The seminar will provide space for learning and knowledge sharing among the participants and identifying concrete points for future actions. In this regard, it will also consolidate the work done so far by the Council of Europe in the field of AI and youth, and propose specific issues, actions and resources to be included in the policy, research, education and training work of the youth sector.

The seminar will pose and seek the answer of the following questions:

- What do young people need to know to feel part of the social, technological and political processes around AI?
- What should public and private actors in AI take into account to allow for participation spaces for and by young people, the digital natives?

Objectives

- To reflect on the competences, social and policy gaps that prevent young people to feel part of the debate on artificial intelligence
- To review the role of the youth sector in establishing alliances to promote the active participation of young people in shaping AI policies (design, deployment, monitoring, evaluation)
- To propose actions, approaches and resources which public and private actors in AI should take into account to secure youth inclusion and their access to rights
- To reflect on potential roles of the Council of Europe in securing that in the AI discourse and frameworks, democracy and human rights are fully upheld for young people.

Format and venues

The seminar will be a hybrid event, combining a residential activity at the European Youth Centre and an online activity with some intersecting points.

During the week of the seminar, the Council of Europe will invite a group of 25 participants, youth experts and representatives in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, and at the same time, provide online learning and exchange spaces with some 30 additional participants, who due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions would not be able to travel to Strasbourg.

The seminar is prepared with the assumption that travel and sanitary regulations will allow for it to be held in the indicated format, both as a residential event and online. In case of further travel limitations and deterioration of the health and sanitary situation, the activity will be held entirely online and the participants will be informed about it in due time.

The programme of the seminar will be prepared by an expert group, including members of the Joint Council on Youth, European Youth Forum, Council of Europe Secretariat and consultants. The preparatory group will propose a draft programme that will be shared with the participants.

The programme of the residential seminar will cover the 4 days of work from 24 to 27 November; participants will be accommodated at the European Youth Centre. The programme of the online activity will mirror the programme of the residential seminar but limited to half-day sessions. Preparation for all participants may include online work in the days before the seminar.

Profile of participants

All participants should have a clear experience and connection with the topics of the seminar and should be interested to explore further the interrelation between AI and young people. The seminar is particularly targeted at representatives of:

- youth organisations, national and local youth councils and international youth networks;
- public authorities related with youth policy and youth work at local or national level;
- academic and research institutions who have particular interest in AI and youth;
- private sector and small businesses with an interest in AI and youth related topics.

Priority will be given to participants under 25 years of age (exceptions are possible).

In addition to this, all participants should be able to work in English.

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

PRACTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For the residential seminar

The participants invited are requested to attend and actively participate for the entire duration of the activity.

Travel expenses and visa fees are reimbursed (on presentation of the relevant receipts) according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire activity can be reimbursed. The payment will be made either by bank transfer after the course, or at the end of the course in cash (in Euros).

Board and lodging for the residential training seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre.

Application procedure

Each interested applicant can choose if they are interested in the residential activity or in the online programme. When applying please note that the European Youth Centres cannot accept participants who travel from countries that require quarantine. Please check the websites of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France for the most updated information from which countries you are allowed to enter France.

All interested candidates must apply online on the following link:

<https://youthapplications.coe.int/>

Deadline for application: **28 October 2020**

For further information please contact eyc.programme@coe.int