

EMRN

The European Metaverse Research Network

Call for Papers

Human Rights in Immersive Realities (XR): Freedom of Expression, Justice, Children's Rights and Well-Being

Dates: 18-19 May 2026

Venue: Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, Room 1

Organised by: Council of Europe (Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division) and the European Metaverse Research Network (EMRN)

About the Conference

Immersive technologies (virtual, augmented and mixed reality - XR) are reshaping how people communicate, create and participate in society. While offering new opportunities for expression and inclusion, they also raise important questions for **human rights, democracy and the rule of law**.

This conference follows the adoption by the CDMSI of the [Feasibility Study](#) on Freedom of Expression in Immersive Realities and builds on the Council of Europe's broader [work](#) on the Metaverse. In line with the Council of Europe's mandate, contributions should reflect how immersive realities may affect the protection of human rights, the exercise of the rule of law and democratic values.

Conference Themes

Submissions are invited on one or more of the following themes:

- Freedom of Expression in Immersive Realities (Article 10 ECHR, embodied and symbolic expression, moderation, surveillance)
 - Children's Rights, Safety and Protection of Vulnerable Users
 - Justice, Law and Jurisdiction in Immersive Environments
 - Health, Ethics and Well-Being in XR
-

Submission Types

- Panel contributions: Papers (3-6 pages) selected to participate in interactive panel discussions
- XR demonstrations: Proposals to showcase immersive technologies during dedicated demo sessions

Please indicate clearly whether your submission is for a panel or a demonstration, and which conference theme it relates to.

Submission Guidelines

- **Deadline:** 31 March 2026
- **Format:** PDF only
- **Templates:** Frontiers Word or LaTeX templates
<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/virtual-reality/for-authors/author-guidelines>

Send submissions to: metaverse.research.net@gmail.com

Subject line (mandatory): *“Metaverse Conference 2026 Submission”*

For questions, use the same address with the subject line:
“Metaverse Conference 2026 Query”

Publication

Selected contributions will be presented at the conference and reviewed by EMRN for further development in a subsequent EMRN-led academic publication, with conference proceedings published as in previous editions.

Important Dates

- Call for Papers opens: February 2026
 - Submission deadline: 31 March 2026
 - Notification of acceptance: 14 April 2026
 - Conference dates: 18-19 May 2026
-

More information on EMRN: <https://metaverse-research-network.info>