

Terms of reference of the

Steering Committee for New and Emerging Digital Technologies (CDNET)

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Category: Steering committee

Duration: 1 January 2026 - 31 December 2027

Programme: Upholding safety, security and integrity of society and persons

Sub-programme: Digital challenges: Artificial intelligence – Cybercrime - Data protection

Main tasks

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers and bearing in mind the Council of Europe’s mandate to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law, its legal standards as well as the relevant case law of the European Court of Human Rights, and other relevant international standards, the CDNET will conduct and coordinate the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe in the field of new and emerging technologies, ensuring that this work supports innovation, and give its legal and policy expertise to the Committee of Ministers on all questions within its field of competence.

In particular, the CDNET is instructed to:

- i. take due account of the Reykjavik Declaration¹ in conducting its activities and submit proposals for its implementation as appropriate;
- ii. take account of the relevant key findings and challenges set out in the Secretary General’s annual reports² and contribute, where relevant, to the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe;
- iii. act as custodian of the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS No. 225) until the Conference of the Parties is established upon the Framework Convention’s entry into force and as such follow and promote its signatures and ratifications;
- iv. carry on the work of the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) regarding the non-legally binding guidance on risk and impact assessment for AI systems tailored to the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (HUDERIA); and adopt, as necessary and depending on the outcomes of the last CAI Plenary meeting in November 2025, additional supporting materials;
- v. contribute to the definition of a strategic vision of the Council of Europe in the field of new and emerging technologies;
- vi. address priorities identified for the Council of Europe in the fields relevant for new and emerging digital technologies;
- vii. conduct needs-assessments and make proposals for the development of common policy responses – including standard-setting activities – to key challenges for member states within its field of competence;
- viii. follow the work of relevant bodies in the field of data protection such as the Consultative Committee of Convention 108 (T-PD);
- ix. maintain a transversal approach, also by co-ordinating its work with other intergovernmental committees and Council of Europe’s entities equally addressing the implications of new and emerging digital technologies in their respective field of activity, by providing these committees and entities with guidance and by assisting them in resolving problems, thereby ensuring an overall coherent approach within the Council of Europe;
- x. base the work on strong evidence and an inclusive, multistakeholder consultation process, including with international and supranational partners, to include a global view of the subject;
- xi. contribute to the Global Digital Compact, a comprehensive framework for international cooperation on digital technologies, including AI .
- xii. raise awareness about Council of Europe standards and tools in its field of competence in the member States and beyond, through the neighbourhood policy and in other international and global fora where relevant;
- xiii. hold an exchange of views annually in order to evaluate its activities and advise the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary General on future priorities in its sector, including possible new activities and those that might be discontinued;
- xiv. take due account of the following mainstreamed perspectives in the performance of its tasks: gender, youth, children’s rights, rights of persons with disabilities, and Roma and Traveller³ issues;
- xv. where relevant, contribute to strengthening meaningful engagement with civil society organisations and national human rights institutions in its work;

¹ Reykjavik Declaration - United around our values.

² Cf. Secretary General’s report 2025 “Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe”.

³ The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

- xvi. in accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, carry out, at regular intervals, within the limits of the available resources and bearing in mind its priorities, an examination of some or all of the conventions for which it has been given responsibility,⁴ in co-operation, where appropriate, with the relevant convention-based bodies, and report back to the Committee of Ministers;
- xvii. contribute to the achievement of, and review progress towards, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, with regards to Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 10: Reduced inequalities, Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.

Main deliverables

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, the CDNET is instructed to complete these deliverables, within the following deadlines:

	Priority ▼	Deadline ▼
1. As a follow-up to the adoption of the legally non-binding guidance for the Risk and Impact Assessment of AI Systems from the Point of View of Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law (HUDERIA) and to support the implementation of CETS No. 225, the legally non-binding guidance document: "HUDERIA Model: Component No. 1 on Guidance on Context-based Risk Analysis and Stakeholder Engagement Process"	1	31/12/2026
2. HUDERIA Model: Component No. 2 on "Recommendations on Roles and Responsibilities in AI Project Lifecycle"	1	31/12/2026
3. Mapping study on "Trends regarding the use of AI raising specific issues in relation to human rights, democracy and the rule of law" (to be sequenced before Deliverable 6)	1	30/06/2027
4. In coordination with the OECD AI Observatory, set up an online platform for collecting and sharing the practice of HUDERIA application (e.g. the successful use cases of the HUDERIA methodology in the public sector, integration of HUDERIA into sandbox projects)	1	30/06/2027
5. Stocktaking exercise of the Council of Europe Committees' current activity covering AI as well as new and emerging technologies.	1	31/12/2027
6. Report "Council of Europe strategic vision for emerging technologies: upcoming challenges of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies from the perspective of Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy"	1	31/12/2027
7. HUDERIA Model: Component No. 3 on "Procurement Guidelines"	1	31/12/2027
8. HUDERIA Model: Component No. 4 on a "Mapping Report on Interoperability Clauses"	1	31/12/2027
9. HUDERIA Model: Component No. 5 on "Templates and Workflow for the Implementation of HUDERIA Documentation"	1	31/12/2027
10. Preparation of the working document analysing the needs of various HUDERIA user groups, map its usability and their capacity-building needs, along with proposals on the role of the Council of Europe in addressing those needs (e.g. analysis of the HUDERIA impact on public procurement, localisation of the methodology, especially for public sector AI)	1	31/12/2027
11. Contribution to and representation by reflecting the Council of Europe values and standards in the relevant initiatives and dialogues on emerging technologies such as the UN Global Dialogue on AI Governance, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG), the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), the G7 Reporting Framework for the Hiroshima AI Process Code of Conduct for Advanced AI systems and the AI4 Good Global Summit.	1	31/12/2027

Composition

• Members

Governments of member States are invited to designate one or more representatives of the highest possible rank in the fields of digital and AI governance and the legal implication arising from the design, development and application of artificial intelligence and emerging technology systems.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of one representative from each member State (two in the case of the State whose representative has been elected Chair). Member States may send other representatives without defrayal of expenses.

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

In accordance with decisions CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2 of the Committee of Ministers, in cases where there is no convention-based body including all the Parties, non-member States are invited to take part, with a right to vote, in the committee meetings pertaining to the conventions to which they are Parties.

• Participants

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Eurimages;
- European Audiovisual Observatory;
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

⁴ Cf. relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers (CM/Del/Dec(2013)1168/10.2) and list of Conventions in document CM(2025)132.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA));
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- other international and regional organisations including: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other UN agencies, Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), African Union (AU), Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Organization of American States (OAS).

- **Observers**

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States which are Parties to the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS No. 225);
- non-member States having had observer status in the CAI (Argentina, Australia, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Israel, Peru and Uruguay);
- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- States having been invited by decision of the Committee of Ministers to participate in the negotiations;
- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe CDDEM(2024)14, as Observers. Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

Working methods

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Online participation in meetings will be available.

	Plenary meetings ▼			Bureau meetings ▼		
	Members incl. Chair	Meetings per year	Days per meeting	Members	Meetings per year	Days per meeting
2026	47	2	3	9	2	2
2027	47	2	3	9	2	2

The CDNET will appoint from amongst its members up to 5 Rapporteurs on mainstreamed perspectives, including a Gender Equality Rapporteur.