



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

CMJ(2025)15_rev

JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH (CMJ)

52nd Meeting

7-9 April 2025

Budapest, European Youth Centre

A roadmap for action on Artificial Intelligence, Youth Policy and Youth Work

Item 7.1.2. on the agenda

DRAFT DECISION

The Joint Council on Youth:

- Took note of the report and conclusions of the Consultative Meeting on Artificial Intelligence, Young People and Youth Work – How Confident?...
- Adopted the roadmap on AI, Youth Policy and Youth Work that resulted from the Consultative Meeting (and appended to this document)
- Invited the Group of Senior Officials to reflect the roadmap in the works of the upcoming Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth
- Invited the secretariat and the Programming Committee to consider the implementation of measures of the roadmap in the co-managed programme of activities and, where relevant, of activities supported by the European Youth Foundation;
- Proposed that the programme of the Partnership with the European Commission takes into account the actions of the roadmap, notably in the areas of youth policy and youth research;
- Endorsed the proposal to carry out a Feasibility Study in 2026 about the opportunity and need of a Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on AI and Young People (including Youth Policy and Youth Work) and reiterated the decision of starting the process of drafting the Recommendation as soon as possible (following the Feasibility Study);
- Thanked in particular the members of the CCJ for their contribution to the work on Artificial Intelligence and Internet Governance and invited them to share their experience with the members of the new Advisory Council.

INTRODUCTION

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 it 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.

Young people are significantly impacted—both positively and negatively—by the digitalisation of nearly every aspect of society. 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 them to be autonomous citizens.

In the youth sector of the Council of Europe, this has been approached from an early stage, as reflected in the [Declaration on Youth Participation in AI Governance](#) (2021). Young people have placed concerns about the impact, 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). This is also reflected in the programme of study sessions at the European Youth Centre and in other recent activities, such as the 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 has been strengthened by the Reykjavik Summit Declaration and the recognition of youth participation and agency in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

The Joint Council on Youth at its 51st meeting (October 2024) reiterated the importance of addressing the impact of AI for young people's rights, notably in view of the forthcoming 10th European Conference of Ministers of Youth (Malta, October 2025). It also urged the Ministers to support the preparation of a CM recommendation on this subject and underlined the importance of starting the drafting process of a CM recommendation at the earliest possible opportunity after the Ministerial Conference, by creating a dedicated CMJ Working Group.

HOW CONFIDENT?...

In order to bring together the various experiences and structure the course of action, a [Consultative Meeting – How Confident?... AI, Young People and Youth Work](#) – was organised on 22 and 23 January 2025. The meeting gathered experts and practitioners in youth policy and AI matters 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, including standard-setting documents (e.g. policy guidelines and recommendations) as well as in programme orientations for the Youth Department.

The measures are presented in appendix in the form of a roadmap to guide action of the Youth sector for the period 2025-2027; it consists of three principles of action and six action areas:

1. Standards and instruments
2. Developing expertise, networks and collaboration
3. Capacity-building for youth organisations
4. Youth worker training, youth programmes and educational activities
5. Youth policy
6. Youth research and knowledge production.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE

One of the programme orientations of the Youth for Democracy programme is the participation of young people in Internet Governance processes.

The 2025 European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG Conference) will be held in June at the Council, of Europe.

Like in previous years, the input of the Youth sector will be secured mostly by members of the Advisory Council during a session in the programme dedicated to the Youth Perspective on AI and Internet governance. The conference will be held in Strasbourg from 12 to 14 May.

Appendix

THE ROADMAP ON AI, YOUTH POLICY AND YOUTH WORK

Cross-cutting principles

The existing standards and approaches to youth policy and youth work – including youth participation, young people's agency, recognition of the diversity among youth populations – are all applicable and valuable in the roadmap. Three principles reflect shared concerns about the impact of AI on young people and young people's opportunity to engage in policy-making processes and should be integrated across each of the six thematic areas detailed below:

- **A human rights-based approach**, that takes into account the risks that AI presents to dignity, equality, inclusion of all young people, as well as to sustaining peaceful and inclusive societies, by ensuring that diverse perspectives inform policy-making processes;
- **Cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary Approaches** Experts at the meeting emphasised the need for cross-sector collaboration between public sector, private sector and civil society actors, and from those working across diverse fields such as technology, human rights, and education to ensure that AI tools supported access to human and social rights.
- **Youth Participation and Co-Creation** Experts at the consultative meeting called for greater involvement of young people from diverse backgrounds in the development of AI policies, technologies and in the ongoing review of the impact of AI on societies.

1. Standards and instruments

The standards and instruments of the Council of Europe's work on AI must include a youth perspective that reflects the diversity of young people and responds to the needs and concerns of young people and the youth sector.

- 1.1. Undertake regular and ongoing monitoring and assessment of the effects of AI on young people across member states, including a focus on biases in AI and the impact on marginalised groups, and ensure that these efforts enable young people and youth organisations to report concerns regarding AI's impact;
- 1.2. Ensure involvement of young people in developing and reviewing the Framework Convention on AI and the work of Council of Europe entities working on AI;
- 1.3. Ensure the involvement of CMJ members as observers at the CDMSI meetings;
- 1.4. Facilitate structured dialogue between young people and policymakers to integrate youth perspectives in AI regulation; facilitate dialogue between private sector and young people to ensure youth perspectives are included in the AI life cycle;
- 1.5. Create and communicate youth friendly versions of the Framework Convention on AI to raise awareness about the risks, opportunities and governance of AI;
- 1.6. Produce and communicate clear, concise and engaging insight reports on the impact of AI on democracy and human rights to the European youth sector;
- 1.7. The CMJ should assess, by the end of the current programme cycle, the need and opportunity of a Recommendation by the Committee of Ministers on AI and young people.

2. Developing expertise, networks and collaboration

Many young people and youth practitioners have knowledge, skills and competences related to AI and have a desire to learn more about the safe and effective use of AI in youth work and with youth organisations and risks of AI to democracy and human rights. However, the fragmented nature of the youth sector means that learning and dialogue about AI is uneven.

- 2.1. Conduct a comprehensive mapping of youth organisations and experts working with AI at national and international levels;

- 2.2. Publish a list of organisations on the Council of Europe to ensure easier and accessible connections of organisations to each other and to young people;
- 2.3. Hold frequent consultation seminars (at least once per year) between young people, youth organisations and policy makers to ensure mutual levels of knowledge, exchange and campaign development.

3. Capacity-building for youth organisations

Youth organisations and practitioners engage with AI in diverse ways, with some at the forefront of innovation, leveraging AI for tasks such as financial management, communications, website development, and data analysis. However, AI also presents significant risks, including concerns around data privacy, ethical considerations, and equitable access to technology. The landscape of AI adoption within the European youth sector is varied, with differing levels of awareness, expertise, and resources. Spaces for youth organisations to exchange experiences, explore emerging tools, and reflect on the ethical implications remain limited, highlighting the need for collaboration and structured support.

- 3.1. Provide AI Literacy training and capacity-building (e.g. study sessions, training courses) that enable youth organisations and youth workers to learn about AI developments and use AI safely and effectively within their organisational contexts – with a focus on practical AI tools (e.g. for finance, communications, evaluations, etc.) and the ethical and responsible use of AI (e.g. data protection, environmental footprint, prompt refinement)
- 3.2. Create a handbook or granular resource tools for youth organisations on AI that enables them to keep up to date with best practice advice on AI policy, guidelines, and technological developments.
- 3.3. Establish a pool of consultants / experts that can advise youth organisations about the safe and effective use of AI in youth organisations;
- 3.4. Encourage the European Youth Foundation (EYF) to support youth organisations through training and capacity-building initiatives on the use of AI.

4. Youth worker training, youth programmes and educational activities

AI is reshaping society, influencing how young people access information, participate in democratic processes, and interact with their peers online and offline. While AI offers opportunities for innovation and engagement, it also raises complex challenges, including misinformation, 'deepfakes', online manipulation, and shifts in employment and education. Biases in AI present significant risks to minority communities and marginalised young people. Youth work is well placed to respond to these challenges by fostering critical discussions, promoting ethical AI use, and ensuring young people are equipped to navigate an AI-driven world. However, there is a need to further explore how youth work can adapt to and address AI's broader social impacts, including reinforcing offline participation, safeguarding democratic engagement and ensuring the commitments to diversity, equality and inclusion are sustained.

- 4.1. Provide training for youth workers on AI literacy that complements lifelong learning and democratic citizenship e.g. safe use of AI, critical thinking and AI's relevance to important topics such as human rights, democracy and environment;
- 4.2. Develop guidelines for safe AI use in youth work;
- 4.3. Establish a Training of Trainers programme to build expertise on AI literacy and ethical considerations;
- 4.4. Sustain the Council of Europe's Human Rights Education programme – providing spaces for young people to learn about, through and for human and social rights and their relation to AI;
- 4.5. Encourage the European Youth Foundation (EYF) to support training and capacity-building initiatives that equip youth workers to address AI's impact on political participation and community engagement, ensuring young people can actively engage in both online and offline civic spaces.
- 4.6. Develop a research-informed educational resource manual or handbook and self-learning tools for youth workers to learn about AI.

- 4.7. Integrate AI-related modules into existing Council of Europe educational resources and publications such as Compass, Compasito, Bookmarks, Education Pack All Different, All Equal and develop an AI-focussed T-Kit;
- 4.8. Add digital competences, including AI literacy and safeguards for lifelong competences, within the Council of Europe Youth Work Portfolio;
- 4.9. Encourage and support applications for study sessions focused on AI and ensure that the study session programme includes opportunities to learn and discuss AI-related topics, AI literacy and innovation;
- 4.10. Support a youth-led campaign on the impact of AI on young peoples' lives (e.g. in line with the 'No Hate Speech' movement);
- 4.11. Encourage intergenerational dialogue and diverse participation in AI-related youth programs.

5. Youth Policy

Existing Council of Europe youth policies have yet to comprehensively reference or address the impact of AI on young people and the role of youth work in navigating these changes.

- 5.1. Review and update Council of Europe youth policy guidelines to incorporate AI-related principles, emphasising dignity, equality, inclusion and justice;
- 5.2. Ensure that the Council of Europe youth policy support measures provide assistance and guidance on the impact of artificial intelligence on the lives of young people.
- 5.3. Facilitate intergenerational dialogue and collaboration with sectors outside youth work to integrate AI into broader social and policy discussions.
- 5.4. Communicate AI-related youth policy in clear, concise, youth-friendly language to reach diverse stakeholders.
- 5.5. Advocate for dedicated funding streams from public and private funds to support youth projects that promote AI literacy and that address and respond to the impacts of AI on young people.

6. Youth research and knowledge production

AI's impact on young people remains under-researched, particularly in areas such as mental health, education, employment, dignity and inclusion. Research often lacks an interdisciplinary approach and insufficiently integrates youth perspectives, resulting in gaps between theory and practice.

- 6.1. Conduct and support comparative research on AI's impact on young people, incorporating youth, technological, and human rights perspectives;
- 6.2. Translate research findings into accessible formats, including infographics and videos;
- 6.3. Share findings through the central AI education platform and other Council of Europe channels;
- 6.4. Organise regular forums on AI and youth bringing together researchers, policymakers, and youth practitioners.
- 6.5. Establish mechanisms to monitor AI's impact on young people and assess the effectiveness of policies and interventions and use findings to inform future research and policy development.