

Protecting  
human rights,  
democracy and  
the rule of law  
in the digital  
environment

COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
**DIGITAL  
PARTNERSHIP**  
OUTLOOK 2024+



**WORKSHOP > 21-22 May 2024**

Strasbourg > Palais de l'Europe > Rooms 7-8

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**PROGRAMME**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP

**WORKSHOP > 21-22 May 2024**

## **Protecting human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the digital environment**

In the rapidly evolving digital environment the collaboration between public institutions and private entities has a responsibility to firmly anchor the technology-driven world in a ground respectful of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Since its inception in 2017, the Council of Europe's initiative for cooperation with the private sector has been a cornerstone in fostering this collaborative approach.

The primary objective of the Digital Partnership is to fortify dialogue and explore avenues to safeguard the human rights in the digital space in line with the Council of Europe values and standards. Over time, the membership within the partnership has expanded currently encompassing twenty-seven business partners.

### **Past cooperation**

The multiple cooperation initiatives since 2017 have spanned across diverse domains, ranging from combating cybercrime, ensuring privacy and data protection, encouraging responsible utilisation of artificial intelligence, advocating freedom of expression, promoting equality and non-discrimination, fostering education, to safeguarding children's rights. A fruitful workshop of February 2022 has issued a biennial workplan that identified key areas of interaction, proposed joint events and potential activities in cooperation with the digital partners.

### **Workshop general focus**

The workshop aspires to be a dynamic, interactive platform conducive to open dialogue, knowledge sharing, and future planning. It seeks to solidify and fortify the existing partnerships, leveraging collective expertise and insights to steer the digital realm towards a human-centric and rights-respecting paradigm.

## Workshop aim

The workshop will review the main topics of common interests in research and policy making, provide a platform for brainstorming, and develop a roadmap of common objectives and activities.

## Dialogue format

The workshop will provide a forum for digital partners to formulate their expectations for continued collaboration. Partners will have the opportunity to spotlight their areas of interest, articulate preferences, and express views on their involvement format.

*Sectoral Discussions:* Interactive discussions will be conducted with Council of Europe sector-specific experts. These dialogues will delve into specific challenges within distinct activity realms. Case studies and successful common activities will be presented, highlighting targeted requirements and needs of all stakeholders involved.

*Interactive Dialogue:* The workshop has been designed to foster an open dialogue. It aims to assess past activities, identify ongoing needs within existing and new cooperation areas, as well as propose concrete initiatives.

## Expected outcomes

*Dialogue alignment:* Alignment of partner expectations with the Council of Europe's priorities and goals.

*Identification of needs:* Identification and addressing of ongoing needs and challenges within the current framework.

*Enhanced cooperation proposals:* Proposal of innovative activities for reinforced collaboration, acknowledging the evolving digital landscape.

*Partnership Roadmap 2024+:* A calendar of events and projects involving partner companies and Council of Europe digital actors.

# Workshop Agenda **Tuesday 21 May Morning**

Venue – Palais de l'Europe, Room 8

9.00 - 9.20 **Registration**

9.20 - 9.40 **Opening addresses**

- **Technology, Human Rights and the Rule of Law** by Hanne Juncher, Director of Security, Integrity and Rule of Law
- **Technology and Democratic Governance** by Claudia Luciani, Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe

9.40 - 10.30 **Partnership progress review**: roundtable assessment of 2017-2024 achievements, ongoing projects, opportunities for future collaboration, identification of challenges, outlining strategic goals.

Moderator: Octavian Sofransky, Digital Governance Advisor

[Website](#)

10.30 - 10.45 **Coffee break**

10.45 - 11.45 **The new framework convention on AI**: key principles and roadmap; human rights considerations in AI development, implications on human rights, democracy, and rule of law.

Presentation: Patrick Penninckx, Head of the Digital Development and Governance Department

[Website](#)

11:45 - 12:15 **The Metaverse** implications for human rights, rule of law and democracy: digital identities, potential influence on social dynamics , and democratic values, observance of rule of law; considerations concerning the convergence of physical and virtual worlds; potential challenges in enforcing laws and regulations in the Metaverse.

Presentation: Irene Kitsara (IEEE) and Rodica Ciochina (Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division)

[Abridged version of the report](#)

12.15 - 14.15 **Lunch Break**

## Workshop Agenda **Tuesday 21 May** Afternoon

Venue	Palais Room 7	Palais Room 8
14:15 15:30	<p>Thematic session 1 <b>Digital governance and freedom of expression</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Latest developments in the work of the Council of Europe. Prospects for future Council of Europe guidance to its member states (CDMSI).</li> <li>➤ Media Information and Education Pledge and survey on mis-disinformation (ICCO).</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a></p>	<p>Thematic session 2 <b>Addressing online child sexual exploitation and abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Council of Europe standards and tools (Children’s Rights Division).</li> </ul> <p><u>Organiser:</u> María Asensio Velasco <a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a></p>
15:45 17:00	<p>Thematic session 3 <b>Digitalisation, training and human rights – effective mutual enhancement</b></p> <p><u>Organiser:</u> Elena Yurkina <a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a></p>	<p>Thematic session 4 <b>AI, equality including gender equality and non-discrimination</b></p> <p><u>Organiser:</u> Menno Ettema <a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a></p>

19:30 - 21:30 **Partnership dinner**  
the courtesy of the Council of Europe

## Workshop Agenda **Wednesday 22 May**

Venue	Palais Room 7	Palais Room 8
9:30 10:45	<p>Thematic session 5  <b>Human rights and privacy in neuroscience</b></p> <p><u>Organisers:</u>            Albina Ovcearenco,            Laurence Lwoff</p> <p><a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a></p>	<p>Thematic session 6  <b>Addressing the digital dimension of violence against women and girls</b></p> <p><u>Organisers:</u>            Caterina Bolognese            Elif Sariaydin</p> <p><a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a></p>
11:00 12:15	<p>Thematic session 7  <b>Action on cybercrime and electronic evidence</b></p> <p>➤ Cooperation with service providers and capacity building</p> <p><u>Organisers:</u> Jan Kralik,            Giorgi Jokhadze</p> <p><a href="#">Website</a></p>	<p>Thematic session 8  <b>Multilevel governance: impact of new technologies</b></p> <p><u>Moderator:</u>            Claudia Luciani, Director,            Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE)</p> <p><a href="#">Website</a> <a href="#">Website</a></p>

### **12.15 - 14.00 Lunch Break**

Venue – Palais de l’Europe, Bar des Parlementaires

**14.00 - 16.30 Partnership Roadmap interactive session:** identification of possible common initiatives with partners, creation of a joint roadmap highlighting common interest areas, research imperatives, and sectors needing policy recommendations and guidance.

### **16.30 - 17.00 Participants’ feedback and closing remarks**

# My Digital Partnership Calendar 2024 +

Period	Event	Partner

**The Digital Partnership** was set-up in 2017 with the aim to fortify dialogue and explore avenues to safeguard the human rights in the digital space in line with the Council of Europe values and standards.

The digital transformation of our society presents opportunities for human progress but also challenges and risks. While the role of States is to protect human rights and the rule of law in this new environment, digital companies and their associations play a critical role in meeting the needs of the current era by providing and controlling its infrastructure.

The partnership with the Council of Europe offers leading tech companies and their associations an opportunity to work alongside governments on digital policies.



The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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