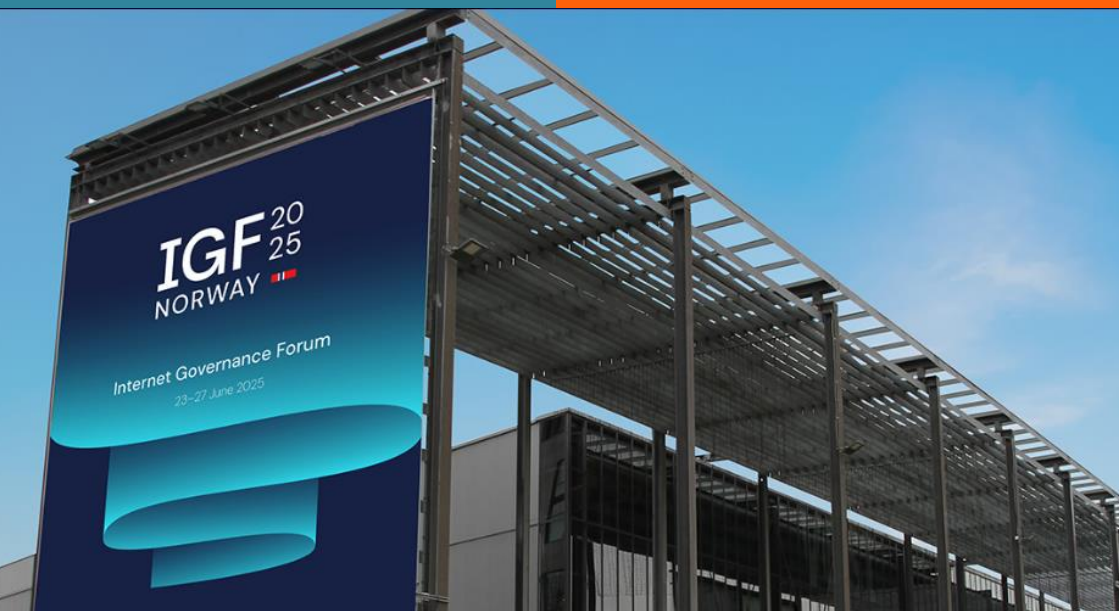


Building Digital Governance Together

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

@ **IGF 2025**

Lillestrøm, Norway



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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

COE @ IGF 2025 in Norway

23 June, 16:00-17:30, Plenary Hall

High Level Session: **Losing the information space? Ensuring fundamental rights and resilient societies in the age of big tech**



Speaker:

Bjørn BERGE, Deputy Secretary General,
Council of Europe

23 June, 14:20-14:40, Open stage,
Hall A1 Village Area

Lightning Talk #245: **Advancing Equality and inclusion in AI**

The session will present measures that can be taken to operationalise safeguards and remedies against discrimination in the use of AI systems, engage with groups most at risk and equip human rights supervisory bodies.

The [Study on the impact of artificial intelligence systems, their potential for promoting equality – including gender equality - and the risks they may cause in relation to non-discrimination](#) adopted by the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) and the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion of the Council of Europe (CDADI) in 2023, and numerous other studies have highlighted the risks that AI systems pose to equality, including gender equality, and non-discrimination, online and offline, in a variety of sectors. These range from employment, through the online targeted distribution of job adverts, to the provision of goods or services in both the public and private sectors such as online loan applications, or to public security policies or the fight against fraud. For example, the [report Bias in Algorithms](#) from the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights shows how easily speech detection algorithms can be biased against certain groups.

The groups that are most affected by bias in AI systems are very often the same groups and individuals as those at risk of discrimination in society. These groups, as well as women, also experience structural inequality, and struggle to meaningfully

participate in forums that develop, deploy and regulate new digital technologies and promote inclusion in AI.

The CoE and EU are jointly building the capacity of equality bodies and representatives of groups most affected by discrimination, including by biases in AI systems. The EU and CoE want to provide a platform at the IGF to share ideas on how to ensure sufficient safeguards against discrimination and access to effective remedies.

Organisers:

Sara HAAPALAINEN, Hate Speech, Hate Crime and Artificial Intelligence, Council of Europe

Speakers:

Bjørn BERGE, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe

David REICHEL, EU Fundamental Rights Agency

Ivana BARTOLETTI, Vice President, Global Chief Privacy and AI Governance Officer at Wipro

25 June, 12:45-14:00, Workshop Room 5, Hall C

Open Forum #16 AI and Disinformation: Countering the Threats to Democratic Dialogue

This session will address the challenges deriving from the use of AI tools generating and spreading disinformation and the distinctive threats these pose to democratic dialogue. Starting with a presentation of the Council of Europe [Guidance Note on countering the spread of online mis- and disinformation through factchecking and](#)

[platform design solutions in a human rights' compliant manner](#), participants will discuss practical measures policymakers and stakeholders can take, such as support for fact-checking, platform-design solutions and user empowerment. The session will also examine the role and responsibilities of digital platforms in both the dissemination of false AI generated information and the promotion of quality journalism.

Panellists will share their experiences, challenges, and strategies for combating AI-driven disinformation and the efforts put in place to maintaining trust in news production. The discussion will also address the challenges arising in this context from the rising use of generative AI systems, including key technologies like deepfakes, highlighting the need for regular updates and careful vigilance in understanding disinformation.

Organisers:

Irena GUIDIKOVA, Head of Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Council of Europe

Giulia LUCCHESI, Co-Secretary CDMSI, Freedom of Expression and CDMSI Division, Council of Europe

Evangelia VASALOU, Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression, Council of Europe

The internet

provides a space of freedom, facilitating the exercise and enjoyment of fundamental rights, participatory and democratic processes, and social and commercial activities.

To ensure a sustainable, people-centred and rights-based approach to the internet, the Council of Europe has engaged in setting and promoting standards, building partnerships and fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue, including regular participation in the Internet Government Forum (IGF).

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