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

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

@ **SEEDIG** 2025

Athens, Greece

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# Panel discussion "**Public-Private Policy Dialogue**: **Human Rights and Digital Business**"

As digital transformation accelerates across the public and private sectors, addressing human rights impacts in digital business has become a growing priority. This session will examine the changing relationship between digital innovation and human rights, looking into the challenges companies face in meeting standards, as well as the opportunities and competitive advantages of proactive engagement. The focus will be on international instruments, including the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence, the first international binding instrument in this field, as well as the risk and impact assessment of AI systems, which together provide frameworks for aligning the use of AI with human rights standards. Furthermore, the discussion will explore how digital tools — such as open data platforms and human rights tracking tools — can help implement safeguards and monitor outcomes across businesses. It will also feature examples of how governments, international organisations and civil society are using these technologies to advance global human rights efforts. Representatives of leading technology companies and associations, members of the Council of Europe Digital Partnership, will present their tools and policies on protecting human rights and democracy online, such as ethics by design principles, social corporate responsibility charts, community principle etc. The speakers will elaborate on the ongoing cooperation with the Council of Europe. A special attention will be given to initiatives in South-Eastern Europe.

## Moderators

**Biljana Nikolic,** Programme Manager
Council of Europe

**Octavian Șofransky**, Digital Governance Advisor
Council of Europe



## Panellists



**Milica Mirkovic**, Research Consultant
Geneva Human Rights Platform

Milica is a PhD researcher at the European University Institute's Law Department. Her research examines the intersection of artificial intelligence (AI) and human rights, with a particular focus on the ethical and responsible integration of AI in human rights monitoring and its implications for existing inequalities. She worked as a research consultant with the Geneva Human Rights Platform, where she conducted research on digital human rights monitoring and the use of AI in this field. Before that, she worked on public policy development and coordination in the areas of human rights and democratization at the Government of

Montenegro. She is an alumna of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and holds an LLM from Roma Tre University.

### Daniel Pap, Legal Advisor, Committee on Artificial Intelligence, Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

Daniel is legal adviser to the Council of Europe's Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) which elaborated the world's first international binding instrument on AI – the Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. Previously, he served as an administrator at the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) on AI and on human rights and on human rights and the environment. He earlier worked as a lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights, focusing on cases concerning the right to property and the right to a fair trial. Before joining the Council of Europe, he practised international arbitration as an associate at global law firms, representing clients in investor–State disputes. He holds an LL.M. in Comparative and International Dispute Resolution from Queen Mary University of London and a J.D. from Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest).

### Murielle Popa Fabre, Expert in Responsible AI Policies and Governance, Computational Neuroscientist, x INRIA & Cornell Researcher

Murielle Popa-Fabre is a consultant on Generative AI impact, policies and governance to global organizations, co-lead of the Council of Europe's expert panel on the Impacts of Generative Artificial Intelligence for Freedom of Expression, and a former INRIA & Cornell researcher in Computational Neuroscience.

### Elizabeth Wiltshire, Senior Policy Manager for AI at the GSMA

Elizabeth is working with members, policymakers, and international institutions to establish a global AI governance landscape which supports innovation, provides certainty and builds trust. Previously, Elizabeth was the Manager for EU Affairs at GSMA, working on Digital Economy files including the AI Act and Data Act. Prior to joining GSMA, Elizabeth worked across sectors and levels of governance on digital and space policy, as well as digital democracy and democratic innovation. She holds a degree in Politics and International Relations from the University of Sussex. Additionally, Elizabeth is a board member for the international non-profit organisation Demsoc, working to create a democracy that works for the 21st century. She is an Associate Fellow on future technologies at the Institute for Global Change.

# Panel discussion "**Countering Harmful Content and Disinformation Online**"

While freedom of expression remains a cornerstone of democratic societies, the proliferation of harmful content online — including disinformation, hate speech, and incitement to violence — poses serious risks to public trust, democratic institutions, and societal cohesion. This session will explore how to strengthen democratic resilience by addressing harmful online content through a human rights-based approach, grounded in Council of Europe standards. It will foster a multi-stakeholder dialogue among legal experts and media regulators from South-Eastern Europe, aiming to identify human rights-compliant solutions to address the most pressing challenges in content governance today.

## Moderator

**Alina Tatarenko**
Head of Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression, Council of Europe

Alina is acting as the Head of Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression at the Council of Europe. The Division supports member States and partners in strengthening policies, legislation, and capacities on freedom of expression, media freedom, and access to information, in line with European standards. Its work includes legal and policy advice, training, capacity building, and awareness-raising, in cooperation with ministries, parliaments, regulators, law enforcement, media, public broadcasters, and civil society. Key areas include the safety of journalists, countering SLAPPs, media ownership transparency, disinformation, media literacy, governance of public service media, access to information, and aligning national frameworks with Council of Europe standards and ECtHR case-law.

## Panellists

**Azra Maslo** Programme Standards Coordinator
Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA)
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Azra acts as the Head of the Division for Program Content and Complaints of the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has been working at the Communications Regulatory Agency since its establishment in 1998. During her professional career, she dealt with various topics in the field of media regulation, content monitoring, and policy development. Ms. Maslo participated in the process of harmonizing the national regulatory framework with EU standards, particularly in the areas

of audiovisual content, election coverage, accessibility, and human rights. Ms. Maslo leads efforts in media content oversight, complaint handling, and the promotion of media literacy, while contributing to strategic national documents on human rights and issues including hate speech, protection of minors, election media coverage.

**Persa Lampropoulou**, Legal Advisor, National Council for Radio and Television of Greece

Born in Kalamata, Greece, (1966), Persa was admitted to Bar in 1994 (Athens). She received her education at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (JD, 1990) and the University of London, QMWC (M.Sc. in Public Policy, 1993). She is Legal Advisor to the National Council for Radio and Television; contributor to Media Law (by Prof. I. Karakostas), 1998. She is a member of the International Bar Association, Hellenic Commercial Lawyers Association. She specializes in Media Law, Tort, Data Protection, Intellectual Property and Trademarks. She represents the NCRTV in the Executive Council of the European Audiovisual Observatory since its admission as a Member in 2018, and the EBMS (former ERGA) and participates actively in its works (since its establishment in 2014).

**Ioanna Choudalaki**, Director of Digital Services Hellenic Telecommunications & Post Commission (EETT), Greece

Ioanna joined the Greek Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT) in March 2005 and she has been working on, and managing, regulatory and competition projects covering market analysis, bottom-up cost modelling, investigation of anti-trust cases, mergers and spectrum valuation for almost 20 years. In July 2024, she was appointed as Head of the team working on the enforcement of the Digital Service Act in Greece and since 1 st of April 2025 she has been acting as Head of the newly established Directorate for Digital Services. Prior to EETT, Ioanna worked for one of the top Fast Moving Consumer Goods companies. Since January 2016, she has been a drafter in the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) Roaming Working Group (WG), where she supported the implementation of Roam Like At Home, and in December 2018, she was appointed Co-Chair of this WG. In 2023 Ioanna was also a part of the BEREC Chair team – she was the Chair of the BEREC Contact Network. Ioanna holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Athens University of Economics and Business and a Master of Science in Finance and Economics from London School of Economics.

**Robert Gajda**, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, Albania

From 2018 Robert is the Commissioner for protection from discrimination in Albania, with a 5 years mandate that may be renewed once. Previously, He was a lecturer of Constitutional Law and Administrative Law at the University of Elbasan and has received his PhD for Constitutional Justice and Fundamental Rights at the University of Pisa, Italy, in 2015. He has a conspicuous academic activity in writing articles in law reviews and conferences proceedings, in organizing scientific conferences and in 2017 has published a monograph titled "Individual constitutional complaints in the Albanian legal order. Comparative aspects", Bonomo Editore, Bologna. He has collaborated with various civil society organizations, especially in relation to the recognition and promotion of human rights as a lecturer, trainer, organizer of legal clinics and collaborator in concrete studies. He has been engaged as an activist together with intellectuals, students, citizens, NGOs in support of civic initiatives but also as project winners. Areas of interest are constitutional aspects, human rights, effective implementation of the law, local government, administrative law, legal advice etc. From 2021-2023 he has been member of the Executive Board in EQUINET.

## Interventions from the floor

**Aikaterini Polyzou**, Head of Department for Audiovisual Media and Internet, Presidency of the Government, General Secretariat of Communication and Media



Aikaterini is a Senior Public Officer who serves as the Head of the Department for Audiovisual Media and Internet at the Secretariat General for Communication and Media of the Presidency of the Hellenic Government. She is an elected member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) of the Council of Europe. Her work encompasses policy development, inter-agency collaboration, and the implementation of national mechanisms aligned with international and European standards in the areas of freedom of expression and media policy.

**Yiannis Ketentzian**, Public Officer, Audiovisual Media and Internet, Presidency of the Government

Yiannis is a Public Officer and Media Policy Expert at the Department for Audiovisual Media and Internet at the Secretariat General for Communication and Media of the Hellenic Government. He is part of the Trainers' Registry of the National Center of Public Administration and Local Government. He works on media literacy, disinformation policy, and the implementation of national legislation aligned with international and European standards on freedom of expression.

**Leonidas Kanellos**, Attorney at Law, expert in electronic communications, competition law and policy, Former President of the Hellenic Telecommunications & Post Commission (EETT)



Leonidas is a lawyer with international experience, Doctor of Laws from the University of Montpellier, France, member of the legal department of the Athens Bar Association, with extensive teaching experience at the Universities of Piraeus and the Aegean, as well as 30 years of practical experience in electronic communications and privacy. Currently President of the Panhellenic Network of Professional Data Protection Officers (DPO Network) and a certified DPO, Leonidas served as President (2009–2013) of the National Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT) and President (2013) of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC). Participated as a Keynote speaker in international telecommunications policy conferences (Europe, USA, Japan, S. Korea, Australia, S. Africa and Latin America). He has numerous relevant publications in Greek, English, French and German, including 'Artificial Intelligence, Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law' (collective work 2025), 'THE GDPR HANDBOOK' (2023), 'Smart Contracts, legal challenges and business prospects' (2022), 'Applications of Artificial Intelligence in law & judicial practice' (2021).

## Panel discussion
## "**Cyber interference with Democracy**"

The session will explore how information and communication technologies are misused to manipulate democratic institutions, electoral processes, and public trust in governance. The focus would be on recent cases of cyber interference in elections through malicious activities, outlining various forms of such interference, and discussing preventative and responsive measures grounded in the principles of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

## Moderator

**Octavian Șofransky**, Digital Governance Advisor
Council of Europe



Octavian is currently acting as a Digital Governance Advisor in the Digital Governance and Sport Department of the Council of Europe. He works on the implementation of the Council of Europe Digital Agenda, coordinates relations with technology companies and their associations, members of the Digital Partnership of the Council of Europe, and supports cooperation with internet governance forums and institutions. His experience at the Council of Europe also includes cooperation activities in the field of prevention and combating corruption and money-laundering, assessment of projects financed by the Council of Europe Development Bank, preparation of the organisational Programme of Activities and monitoring the implementation of projects of the IT investment portfolio. He holds a master's in European studies from the College of Europe in Warsaw, Poland, a Master in Peace studies from the University of Castellon, Spain, and a Diploma in Architecture from the Chișinău Technical University, Moldova.

## Panellists



**Paul Radu**, Co-founder, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP)

Paul is the Co-Founder and Head of Innovation at the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), launched in 2007. He leads major cross-border investigations and develops tools and strategies to expose organized crime and corruption. Paul pioneered the concept of "laundromats" to describe large-scale financial fraud networks and led award-winning investigations such as the Russian, Azerbaijani, and Troika Laundromats. He co-created the Investigative Dashboard and Visual Investigative Scenarios, tools that help journalists trace assets and map criminal

networks. Paul is also a co-founder of RISE Project Romania and an Ashoka Global Fellow. His work has earned him numerous honors, including the Daniel Pearl Award, the Global Shining Light Award, the European Press Prize, and a Pulitzer Prize as part of the Panama Papers team. He sits on several international journalism boards and contributes regularly to investigative journalism guides and handbooks.

## **Daniel Cuciurianu**,  Programme Manager
Cybercrime Programme Office (C-PROC)
Council of Europe

Daniel has been with the Council of Europe since 2022, as Programme Manager of the iPROCEEDS-2 and CyberSEE Projects, both dedicated to enhancing the criminal justice response of South-East Europe and Türkiye to cybercrime and electronic evidence, in line with the provisions of the Convention on Cybercrime, its Second Protocol and European Union objectives. Before joining his current role, he served for 20 years as a police officer of the Romanian National Police, ultimately holding the position of head of the Bucharest Cybercrime Department, where he led joint investigation teams for cross-border operations such as RESIDENT, COLD LAKE and BRUNO, additionally acting as a consultant on capacity building in cybercrime. Daniel holds a Master's degree in criminal Investigation and a Bachelor's degree in Law.

## **Pablo Maristany de las Casas**, Analyst

Pablo is an analyst at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD), where he specializes in pro-Kremlin information threats facing the EU, particularly in Germany, and their connections with far-right and conspiracy groups.

His recent work explores the effectiveness of European sanctions on Russian state media and the tactics used to evade them, leveraging social listening, internet censorship and domain investigation methodologies. Pablo has also researched the activities of state-linked hacker groups and hacktivism targeting EU and NATO Member States, as well as the German far-right's deployment of generative AI to spread hate and disinformation. He also studies how Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs) moderate hateful and extremist content in Spain and Germany.

Pablo's expertise has been featured in a range of outlets, including Sky News, POLITICO, France24 or STERN, among others. Before his current position, Pablo served as an Open-Source Researcher in Amnesty International's Evidence Lab and founded the Digital Verification Corps at the Hertie School, his alma mater.

# COUNCIL OF EUROPE @ **SEEDIG**

South-Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG) has been founded in 2014 and is structured as an open and informal space for different stakeholders to discuss Internet-related issues.

Annual forums are held in different parts of the region. The first annual forum was held in June 2015 in Sofia, Bulgaria. SEEDIG promotes a healthy, sustainable and inclusive digital advancement of the SEE region through facilitating multistakeholder dialogue and cooperation on addressing issues related to the use, evolution and governance of the Internet and other digital technologies across the region.

SEEDIG is an officially recognized subregional multistakeholder Internet Governance Forum on Internet and digital policy issues. This subregional IGF National and Regional Initiative (NRI) is of relevance for Southeastern Europe and its neighbours.

The Council of Europe has participated regularly from the first version of this event.

# The internet

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

In order 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.

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