



DIGITAL RIGHTS FOR A CONNECTED WORLD

COUNCIL OF EUROPE @IGF 2023

*Resources
and Reference Texts*

www.coe.int/IGF2023

**International Cooperation
Internet Governance**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



"It is the role of the Council of Europe to ensure that human rights, democracy and the rule of law are protected and promoted in the digital environment. So, we need to ensure that AI is used to promote and protects our standards. "

*Marija Pejčinović Burić,
Secretary General of the Council of Europe*



The Council of Europe and Artificial Intelligence – Towards an application of AI based on human rights, the rule of law and democracy

 <https://go.coe.int/7Fh8B>



Committee on Artificial Intelligence

 <https://go.coe.int/Akw1d>

The Committee of Ministers has tasked the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) with elaborating a **legally binding instrument on the development, design and application of AI systems** based on the Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law. At the same time, the instrument shall be conducive to innovation. The focus of the Convention will be on ensuring the continued seamless application of human rights and the principle of rule of law in contexts where AI systems assist or replace human decision-making or perform other tasks relevant in such contexts. Moreover, AI systems shall only be used in such a way that they do not, directly or indirectly, endanger or undermine democratic processes.



Consolidated Working Draft which serves as a basis for further negotiations of the Framework Convention

 <https://go.coe.int/d96zC>



Webinars and events of the CAHAI and CAI

Discover our webinars on Artificial Intelligence

 <https://go.coe.int/7Vnbi>



And read our brochure with an overview of the Council of Europe's activities on Artificial intelligence

 <https://go.coe.int/NVz8L>



English



French



Spanish



Portuguese



Japanese

IMMERSIVE REALITIES

The **metaverse** unfolds as a dynamic, ever-evolving digital landscape. It offers boundless opportunities for progress while presenting intricate challenges. Policymakers are called upon to exercise prudence and foresight, ensuring that human rights, the rule of law, and democratic principles remain steadfast pillars in this ever-expanding digital frontier. The path forward demands vigilance, cooperation, and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding the core values of our society.



Brief overview of the study “The metaverse and its impact on human rights, the rule of law and democracy” to be published early 2024

 <https://go.coe.int/mNrMs>

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

“Everyone has the right to freedom of expression”
Art. 10 European Convention on Human Rights



The Council of Europe and Freedom of expression

 <https://go.coe.int/yKXKq>



Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)13 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the impacts of digital technologies on freedom of expression

 <https://go.coe.int/ZvTf7>



Freedom of expression, as protected by Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, is not only a fundamental individual right. It is also a means to protect and enhance democracy and other rights through open and public debate. Digital technologies can and indeed must support this right and serve this purpose.

The Guidelines appended to the Recommendation formulate principles aimed at **ensuring that digital technologies serve rather than curtail such freedom**. They also provide recommendations on how to address the adverse impacts and enhance the positive impacts of the widespread use of digital technologies on freedom of expression in human rights compliant ways.



Content moderation - Best practices towards effective legal and procedural frameworks for self-regulatory and co-regulatory mechanisms of content moderation (2021)

 <https://go.coe.int/KKLSS>

The internet has given us fantastic new opportunities to speak, to be heard and to organise. Indeed, it has created a wealth of new opportunities to exercise our human rights, including our rights to freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of thought and religion and others. However, unsurprisingly, it also creates opportunities for illegal or potentially damaging content or behaviour to be spread. Online services (such as social media platforms, where people post messages, articles, pictures, and so on), have a possibility of deleting, demoting or otherwise discouraging the spread of illegal or unwelcome content that is referred to as “content moderation”.

The **Guidance note** looks at these issues in a broad manner, like how to develop a better understanding of the nature of the specific problems that content moderation seeks to address, how to ensure appropriate accountability for restrictions on human rights, the concepts of self- and co-regulation, and the characteristics of transparency tools that are fundamental to ensuring that goals are set and achieved.

COMBATING HATE SPEECH



Council of Europe on Hate Speech

 <https://go.coe.int/aGhks>



Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate speech

 <https://go.coe.int/lyXgU>

Online or offline, hate speech humiliates and marginalises both individuals and targeted groups but it also undermines human rights and threatens democracy. The Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2022)16 on Combating Hate Speech sets out **what should be done to prevent and combat hate speech**, promote a culture of inclusiveness and help those targeted by hate speech to assert their rights through a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder approach.

COMBATTING DISINFORMATION



Committee of Experts on the Integrity of Online Information (MSI-INF)

 <https://go.coe.int/VbfsI>

Reports and studies:



Prioritisation uncovered: The Discoverability of Public Interest Content Online (2020)

 <https://go.coe.int/jSCHE>



Supporting Quality Journalism through Media and Information Literacy (2020)

 <https://go.coe.int/frdD1>



Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making (2017)

 <https://go.coe.int/bqCK2>



Algorithms and Human Rights – Study on the human rights dimensions of automated data processing techniques and possible regulatory implications (2017)

 <https://go.coe.int/iFDYF>

DATA PROTECTION



Council of Europe Data Protection website

 <https://go.coe.int/pXQVf>



Council of Europe Convention for the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data (European Treaty Series No. 108)

 <https://go.coe.int/AEB1h>

For 40 years, the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data - Convention 108 – has been the only international legally binding instrument on the protection of privacy and personal data. Its modernised version, Convention 108+, helps preserving human dignity while providing an enabling and secure framework to free flow of data. Read more and listen to the views of prominent personalities.



Modernisation of Convention 108



 <https://go.coe.int/a0XBo>



 Video <https://youtu.be/SCDcktPbOW0>



HELP online course on Data Protection and Privacy Rights

 <https://go.coe.int/sKAEA>



Guidelines on National Digital Identity (2023)

 <https://go.coe.int/zTLgF>

Founded on the principles and provisions of Convention 108+, these guidelines promote an objective assessment of all interests at stake including the benefits of such systems against the interference they might represent with human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals. They also provide recommendations for each type of actors of the development and implementation of such systems as well as concrete guidance for the engagement of stakeholders in an impact assessment.



CYBERCRIME



Action against cybercrime

 <https://go.coe.int/OhB1x>



Budapest Convention on Combating Cybercrime and its protocols

 <https://go.coe.int/dVwac>

The Budapest Convention is more than a legal document; it is a framework that permits hundreds of practitioners from Parties to share experience and create relationships that facilitate cooperation in specific cases, including in emergency situations, beyond the specific provisions foreseen in this Convention. Any country may make use of the Budapest Convention as a guideline, check list or model law. Furthermore, becoming a Party to this treaty entails additional advantages.



Cybercrime Convention explained

▶ <https://vimeo.com/643516781>

DIGITAL PARTNERSHIP



Digital partnership with digital companies

🌐 <https://go.coe.int/76EwD>

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, business plays a critical role in meeting the needs of the current era by providing and controlling its infrastructure. The partnership with the Council of Europe enables them to work alongside governments on digital policies.



Brief overview of the Council of Europe co-operation framework with internet companies and representative associations

🌐 <https://go.coe.int/w0EdV>



Digital Citizenship Education

 <https://www.coe.int/dce>

Children and young people spend a lot of time nowadays connected to digital technology. To communicate, learn, work and play responsibly in this environment, they need to develop a whole range of competences that will enable them to harness the benefits and opportunities and overcome the pitfalls they will encounter. The goal of the Council of Europe's Digital Citizenship Education (DCE) programme is to provide young citizens with innovative opportunities to develop the values, attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary for every citizen to participate fully and assume their responsibilities in society.



Artificial Intelligence and Education: A critical view through the lens of human rights, democracy and the rule of law (2022)

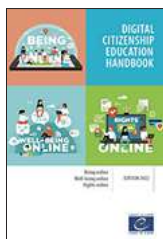
 <https://go.coe.int/mxKaG>



Guidelines to Support Equitable Partnerships of Education Institutions and the Private Sector (2023)

 <https://go.coe.int/WM40K>





Digital Citizenship Handbook (2022)

 <https://go.coe.int/3W05f>



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT



Children and the Internet: Protection and participation

 <https://go.coe.int/eFheT>



The digital environment

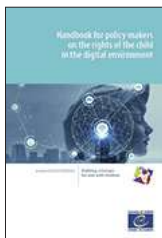
 <https://go.coe.int/wFVWB>



Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child in the digital environment

 <https://go.coe.int/uQ603>





Handbook for policy makers on the rights of the child in the digital environment (2020)

 <https://go.coe.int/UpT98>



The protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies (ICTs): addressing the challenges raised by child self-generated sexual images and/or videos – Key findings

 <https://go.coe.int/nxhTf>

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION



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 (2023)

 <https://go.coe.int/d1j7G>



WEBSITE



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www.coe.int

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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