Volume 1 | No. 3

GDHRNet Quarterly

**October 2021**

The Global Digital Human Rights Network announces its first Quarterly Newsletter, with highlights from our works, events and growing network.

*Our research agenda*

*and outcomes*

# From our desks

The GDHRNet has held its annual **general meeting** of the Management Committee, the Working Groups and the Core Group. The meeting was hosted by the **University of Coimbra** (Portugal) from Monday, September 20 to Wednesday, September 22, 2021, in a blended model entailing both in-person and online participation.



The **Management Committee** has met on Monday, September 20 to assess the steps forward made by the Action over the last 12 months and to plan the next stages of the Action’s activities.

The **Working Groups** have met separately on Tuesday, September 21 to carry out an overview of the projects undertaken by each of them, while also devoting a specific session to the presentation of ongoing research by members of the Working Groups themselves.

Simultaneously, the **first edition** of the **Training School** dedicated to **Current Issues and Awareness of Digital Human Rights** was held from Tuesday, September 21 to Thursday, September 23, 2021, with several young scholars from all over Europe meeting in Coimbra or attending online. The intensive three day program encompassed the participation in a workshop where members of the network presented the current stage of ongoing research activities, a day-long session devoted to provide participants with useful tips in order to develop research projects in the field of digital rights protection, including feedback from members of the network on individual projects pursued by each participant, and a final day where professionals such as ECtHR and CJEU judges offered their views on the most relevant issues concerning human rights protection in the digital sphere.

The effort put into the preparation of the Sustainability Plan for the Action, which aims at building a lasting heritage even after the completion of the Action’s mission, will finally deliver its results in the form of a conference on digital human rights to be held in March 2022.

***More on what’s going on in the Action***

# Publications and news of interest

Martin Fertmann, Matthias C. Kettemann (eds.), *Can Platforms Cancel Politicians? How States and Platforms Deal with Private Power over Political Actors: an Exploratory Study of 15 Countries* (Hamburg: Verlag Hans-Bredow-Institut, 2021), GDHRNet Working Paper #3.

Alexandre L. Dias Pereira, *Intelligence Artificielle et droit d’auteur au Portugal*, Revista Rede de Direito Digital, Intelectual & Sociedade, No. 1, 2021.

Roxana Radu, Matthias C. Kettemann, Trisha Meyer & Jamal Shahin, *Normfare: Norm Entrepreneurship in Internet Governance*. Telecommunications Policy, No. 6, 2021.

Paolo Cavaliere & Graziella Romeo, *From poison to antidotes: algorithms as democracy boosters?*, European Journal of Risk Regulation, forthcoming 2021.

**The proposal for a Regulation on “artificial intelligence systems”**

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021PC0206>

The European Commission has published a Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council with the aim of laying down harmonized rules on AI. The proposed legal framework aims at addressing the risks connected to specific uses of AI through proportionate and flexible rules, and it specifically focuses on the different levels of risks. Ultimately, the proposal aims at creating a public environment of trust where AI can safely function.

## Commission calls on Member States to fully transpose EU rules on audiovisual content

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/audiovisual-media-commission-calls-member-states-fully-transpose-eu-rules-audiovisual-content>

In the fourth week of September 2021, the European Commission has sent a reasoned opinion to Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Ireland, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain for not providing information about the implementation into their national laws of the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive. The new discipline addresses all audiovisual media, both traditional TV broadcasts and on-demand services, as well as video-sharing platforms. The rules set out in the abovementioned Directive aim to ensure a safer, fairer and more diverse audiovisual framework.

## The Commission’s proposal for a Decision establishing the “Path to the Digital Decade” to deliver the EU’s digital transformation by 2030

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/audiovisual-media-commission-calls-member-states-fully-transpose-eu-rules-audiovisual-content>

The Commission has proposed the policy programme “Path to the Digital Decade”, a plan aiming at ensuring that the European Union’s objectives and targets for a digital transformation of our society and economy are accomplished by 2030. To reach this goal, the proposed plan will set up a governance framework based on joint effort by all Member States and the Union level to ensure that steps are taken in four main areas, namely digital skills, digital infrastructures, digitalisation of businesses and public services.

# Events

* **16th Annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2021)**

Location: MCK International Congress Center, Katowice, Katowice + online (hybrid), Poland
Event Dates: from 6 December 2021 to 10 December 2021

# From the community

**New members**

The Action leadership is pleased to announce that **Etika**, a non-profit organization advocating for the protection of human rights in the digital environment, has joined the Action, by applying to Working Group 3 and bringing its expertise in the dissemination of awareness in the digital rights field, especially with reference to Lietuva.

**Find us**

▶ Twitter: @GDHRNet

▶ Facebook group „Global Digital Human Rights“

https://[www.facebook.com/Global-Digital-Human-Rights-Network-103592978250843](http://www.facebook.com/Global-Digital-Human-Rights-Network-103592978250843)

▶ Instagram: „Cost Action CA19143“ https://[www.instagram.com/costaction/](http://www.instagram.com/costaction/)