

GDHRNet – Working Group 2 – Deliverable #3

Report of the preparatory workshop of the international conference

Report: Felicitas Rachinger (University of Innsbruck)

When and where?

Within the hybrid GDHRNet Workshop in Obergurgl, Austria, 30 June 2022 – 3 July 2022, a preparatory workshop of the international conference was held.

Participants

Participating in the workshop included (inter alia) the following members of GDHRNet: Mart Susi, Mari-Ann Susi, Matthias C. Kettemann, Lana Bubalo, Jelena Simić, Kyriaki Topidi, Violeta Besirevic, Cathleen Powell, Wolfgang Benedek, Laurena Kalaja, Vygante Milasiute Gregor Fischer-Lessiak, Felicitas Rachinger, Martin Fertmann, Vincent Hofmann,

Workshop

Within the workshop, there was substantial discussions on the date, location, target audience, theme and program of the conference.

Date and place

The workshop concluded that the Conference should be held in Tallinn, Estonia, in September 2024. Tallinn was chosen as Prof. Dr. Mart Susi, Action Chair of the GDHRNet is head of the law program at Tallinn University. All project outcomes are to be completed by September 2024. The conference shall provide the opportunity to present the project outcomes to a wider audience and is planned to be held as a multi-stakeholder conference.

Theme

As for the theme of the conference, there were several suggestions. All participants agreed that the theme should reflect the main theme of the project, namely the focus on digital human rights.

Target audience

The conference aims at reaching a strong presence of relevant stakeholders, which shall be as international and diverse as possible. Alongside the members of the GDHRNet and other academic researchers, the conference shall welcome high-level politicians, members of the EU parliament and/or Commission, judges of the ECtHR or national constitutional courts, industry representatives and members of the civil society, as well as any other stakeholders that might be relevant in the field of digital rights. The aim is to invite as many high-level

representatives with different backgrounds as possible in order to present and discuss project outcomes with a broad audience.

Conference program

During the workshop, first ideas in regards to the Conference program were discussed. The main aim of the conference is to present the project outputs. One suggestion was to support these presentations with discussions of digital human rights issues in High-Level-Panels. Whenever possible, the participants of the workshops agreed to have interactive elements during the conference to engage with each other. Next to presentations, panel discussions and workshops, suggestions discussed during the workshop included using *gamification* as a method for participants to actively engage, setting up an *exhibition village* with posters on research projects, and/or organizing a *research slam* where digital human rights research can be presented. The program shall be complemented with thematic artistic input, such as digital art installations or even a human rights concert. At this point, a concretization of these ideas seemed difficult, as the possibilities would largely depend on the exact date and duration, as well as the location of the conference. However, it has been agreed that the aim of the conference shall be to focus on solutions and the added value that a discussion of digital human rights issues can bring.

Next Steps

The next steps will be the determination of the exact date and location of the conference, as well as identifying the persons within GDHRNet who will take over the main organizational tasks.