**Global Digital Human Rights Network**

**Virtual Networking Strategy 2021**

Virtual Networking Strategy aims at facilitating the achievement of Action objectives for its first grant period. Implementation of the Strategy should result in a well-prepared and smoothly running **Annual Meeting of the Action in September**. The event will be composed of the Management Committee meeting, Core Group meeting, working group meetings (separate and joint) as well as a training school on topical issues of digital human rights. Trainees will have an opportunity to participate in the working group Year 1 workshop on research in progress that will ultimately lead to a book summarizing research activities of the Action. Trainees will also get to know the practice-oriented activities of the dedicated working group aimed at developing guidance for businesses and governments on managing online content. The training element, in connection with the academic discussion, is expected to help in scientific planning and in shaping further dissemination activities of the Action. The event will thus connect all strands of work the Action has already started.

The September event is going to be a hybrid event, with a portion of participants connecting virtually while others are meeting in person. Connecting the virtual and the physical communities during the meeting is a specific and a new challenge to the Action. To this end, **Virtual Mobility Grants** are to be awarded **for performing the following sub-tasks**:

(1) coordinating research and Year 1 workshop preparation activities,

(2) coordinating practice-oriented activities aimed at developing guidance for businesses and governments on managing online content,

(3) coordinating stakeholder involvement (including contacts with Advisory Board) activities for the purpose of scientific planning,

(4) coordinating communication (including sending out questionnaires and collecting feedback in advance of the meeting),

(5) coordinating dissemination activities (notably publications of existing research) and outreach events in connection with the September event,

(6) coordinating training school preparation activities.

Once approved by the Core Group, the Virtual Networking Strategy is to be published on the Action website (gdhrnet.eu) and disseminated to Action members by email via e-COST and working group mailing lists. The call for Virtual Mobility Grants has already been published and a reminder is going to be published using the same channels as indicated above. **Applications** received via e-COST will be assessed by the Virtual Networking Support manager. The pre-approved applications will be put on e-voting for the Management Committee to approve.

The Virtual Networking Support manager will advise beneficiaries of the Virtual Mobility Grants and ensure coordination of their activities. The **Virtual Networking Team** consisting of the Virtual Networking Support manager and the beneficiaries of the Virtual Mobility Grants will be in contact with and act upon instructions of the Core Group. In all its activities, the Virtual Networking Team and its individual members shall take into account the need to implement the COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy and shall envisage specific measures to achieve this aim. The beneficiaries of the Virtual Mobility Grants shall **report** to the Virtual Networking Support manager. The Virtual Networking Support manager shall **report** to the Management Committee.