

EuroDIG

European Dialogue on Internet Governance

Messages from Vilnius 17–19 June 2024

*Balancing innovation
and regulation*



About EuroDIG

Launched in 2008, EuroDIG, the European Dialogue on Internet Governance, is a unique annual event that brings together Internet stakeholders from throughout Europe (and beyond), and from across the spectrum of government, industry, civil society, academia and the technical community. Stakeholders and participants work over the course of each year to develop, in a bottom-up fashion, a dynamic agenda that explores the pressing issues surrounding how we develop, use, regulate and govern the Internet. EuroDIG participants come away with broader, more informed perspectives on these issues and new partners in responding to the challenges of the information society.

EuroDIG is more than just a conference, because open exchange among and engagement of interested stakeholders in the programme planning process makes a difference. One can say that EuroDIG never stops, because the end of the annual event marks the beginning of the planning for the next one.

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Introduction

Inga Rimkevičienė on behalf of the Lithuanian host

EuroDIG 2024 took place from June 17–19 in Vilnius, Lithuania. It was hosted by the Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania (RRT) in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of Lithuania, the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation of Lithuania, the Public Institution GoVilnius, and the Information Society Development Committee.

This year EuroDIG joined forces with the Baltic Domain Days 2024, which took place at the same location and at the same time. We found synergies in our programmes and special sessions for domain names issues were allowed to dive deeper into the topic.

YOUthDIG, the annual youth engagement programme, was held on the weekend just before EuroDIG. Youth envoys were also active in the main discussions of EuroDIG. The Intergenerational Dialogue, a new segment linking YOUthDIG with the main event, was introduced this year.

EuroDIG 2024 coincided with the Lithuanian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. The Digital Dimension of Freedom, including Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, as well as the Fight Against Disinformation, are among the priorities of the Lithuanian Presidency. These priorities were fully covered by EuroDIG Programme and reflected in the Messages – the main outcome of this event. We were happy and honored to have Mrs. Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, on site with her keynote speech and the overall strong engagement of the Council of Europe.

In 2010, Lithuania hosted the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF), where we discussed the future development of Internet and digital technologies. In 2024, we gathered European Internet governance stakeholders to discuss the challenges brought by the rapid development of technologies. The world is ready to advance the global digital agenda. Yet, the digital divide is like a moving target, and large communities do not have access to the Internet. The growing spread of disinformation online, which puts democracies and human rights at risk, cybersecurity threats, rise of new risks and retroactive resilience is a worrying reality.

These concerns and searching for ways to tackle them were the backbone of EuroDIG 2024 under the main theme “Balancing innovation and regulation”. Regulation is seen as an instrument to ensure protection of users, especially the vulnerable groups, ensuring non-discrimination, transparency, and legitimacy. The three



main topics became the umbrellas for more detailed discussions, which are in detail presented in this brochure.

No wonder, special attention was paid to AI and the just recently adopted Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy, and the Rule of Law. The Council of Europe adopted it on a symbolic occasion, as Lithuania took over the Presidency on 17 May 2024. We are excited that it will be opened for signatures in Vilnius on 5 September 2024, making it the Vilnius Convention. It is the first international legally binding treaty to establish a global minimum standard for protecting human rights from the risks posed by AI. We believe that the Convention, among other related developments within Europe, is setting the scene for addressing potential issues globally.

One of our goals for EuroDIG 2024 was to present the vibrant local technical community and views on the topics discussed from the hosting country perspective. Many Lithuanian experts from state institutions, private sector, academia, media and other entities were engaged in programme planning, as the speakers, or followed EuroDIG sessions as participants. We hope that Lithuanian contributions enriched the Programme, made the event more diverse and interesting. Moreover, we wanted our guests to see the beautiful capital of Lithuania, explore narrow streets of the Old Town, try local food and enjoy the hospitality of our people.

In conclusion, we would like to thank our organizing partners, speakers, participants, volunteers – everyone who contributed to making the 17th EuroDIG a fantastic event!

EuroDIG 2024 – Programme

YOUthDIG

<i>Time</i> (EEST UTC+3)	<i>Sessions</i>
14 – 16 June	YOU th DIG – Youth Dialogue on Internet Governance

17 June 2024 / Pre-events

<i>Time</i> (EEST UTC+3)	<i>Sessions</i>			
	Auditorium	WS room 1	WS room 2	Building 4, Event Hall
09:00 - 10:00	Registration for onsite participants			
10:00 - 11:00	Pre 1: NRI Assembly (60')	Pre 3: The European Accessibility Act: a model for a more accessible digital Europe (60') <i>Dynamic Coalition on accessibility and disability</i>	Pre 6: Strengthening DNS security through ccTLD managers' actions in the context of current threats and legislation (60') <i>Dynamic Coalition on data and trust</i>	Pre 13: Towards Internet Universality: The updated and revised ROAM-X Framework (60') <i>UNESCO session on ROAM-X indicators</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Break (30')	Break (15')		Break (30')
11:30 - 13:00	Pre 4: Update and reporting on global Internet governance processes (GDC, WSIS+20, NETmundial+10) (90')	Pre 2: UNESCO IFAP Session: Launching IGF Dynamic Coalition on Measuring Digital Inclusion for building inclusive Knowledge Societies (60') <i>UNESCO</i>	Pre 7: Who is affected by the NIS2 Directive and what it means to the fight against online harms. (60') <i>Dynamic Coalition on DNS Issues</i>	Pre 12: What's the Next Game Changer in Future Connectivity? (120') <i>Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania (RRT)</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Break (60')	Break (60')		
	Pre 8: CSTD Open Consultation on WSIS+20 (90')	Pre 5: AR, VR, Metaverse for Urban and Rural settings (60') <i>Dynamic Coalition on data driven health technology</i>	Pre 9: IS3C: Consumer protection and its role in a more secure and safer Internet. (60') <i>Dynamic Coalition IS3C</i>	Break (30')
14:00 - 15:30		Break (15')		Pre 11: Launch Event for the Council of Europe and IEEE Joint Report on the Metaverse and its impact on Human Rights, Rule of Law, and Democracy (90') <i>Council of Europe and IEEE</i>
		Pre 10: [IGF 2024 Youth Track] AI and Threats: new strategies to detect AI-generated political deepfakes (60')	Pre 14: IoT deployment for sustainability (60') <i>DC IOT</i>	

17 June 2024 / Main Programme

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions			
	Auditorium	WS room 1	WS room 2	Building 4, Event Hall
15:30 - 16:00	Break (30')			
16:00 - 16:30	<p>Opening of the EuroDIG2024 & Baltic Domain Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gitanas Nausėda, The President of the Republic of Lithuania Video message • Ingrida Simonytė, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Video message • Jūratė Šovienė, Chair of the Council of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania • Prof. Dr. Edita Gimžauskienė, Vice-Rector of Strategic Partnerships at Kaunas University of Technology • Sandra Hoferichter, Secretary General EuroDIG & Thomas Schneider, President, EuroDIG Support Association 			
16:30 - 17:15	<p>Intergenerational dialogue – YOUthDIG Messages with YOUthDIG fellows, Tomas Lamanaukas, Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Xianhong Hu, UNESCO (45')</p>			
17:15 - 17:30	<p>Keynotes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agnė Vaiciukevičiūtė, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania <p>Exchange with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Roach, IGF MAG Chair (2024) 			
17:30 - 18:30	<p>Opening plenary: Global Internet Governance processes (GDC, WSIS+20 ...) (60')</p>			
18:45	Social event by Baltic Domain Days			

18 June 2024

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions			
	Auditorium	WS room 1	WS room 2 <i>self organised sessions</i>	Building 4, Event Hall
09:00 - 10:00	9:00 - 9:45 Drafting the EuroDIG Messages on the international processes (GDC, WSIS+20, NETmundial+10) Registration for onsite participants			
	Main Topic 1: European policies and strategies			
10:00 - 10:30	Keynotes (2 x 15') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rasma Ramoškaitė, Director at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania • Irena Guidjikova, Head of Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Council of Europe 			
10:30 - 11:30	Subtopic 1: Human Rights in the Digital Era: Europe's Role in Safeguarding Human Rights Online (45')	Workshop 1a: Child safety online – update on legal regulatory trends combatting child sexual abuse online (60')	Flash 1: Challenges of remote work: cybersecurity and wellbeing) (45')	Baltic Domain Days 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pulse of the Baltic Domain Industry • Domain Usage Trends and Issues from the Perspective of Registrar • Survey: Domain Usage Habits of the Lithuanian Population • The Results of the IDN World Report 2024. The Practical UA Challenges of a Registrar and Registry.
	Break (15')		Break (15')	
11:30 - 12:15	Subtopic 2: One for all, all for one: the role of cooperation in enhancing cyber resilience in Europe (45')	Break (45')	Flash 2: Connecting the Unconnected: Enabling Rural Connectivity and Empowering Access (45')	
	Input keynote by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacek Oko, President, Office of Electronic Communications in Poland 			
12:15 - 13:15	Break (15')	Workshop 1b: Protecting vulnerable groups online from harmful content – new (technical) approaches (60')	Break (15')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domain Industry Trends
	Subtopic 3: You on Signal and Me on Telegram – Messenger Interoperability by EU Regulation (45')		Flash 3: Connectivity corridors between Europe and the Middle East and Europe and Asia (45')	
13:15 - 14:30	Break (75')			

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions			
	Auditorium	WS room 1	WS room 2 <i>self organised sessions</i>	Building 4, Event Hall
	Main Topic 2: GovTech – Putting people first in digitalizing public services and the use of data			
14:30 - 15:00	Keynotes (2 x 15') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jūratė Šovienė, Chair of the Council of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation 			
15:00 - 16:00	Subtopic 1: GovTech Dynamics: Navigating Innovation and Challenges in Public Services. (45')	Workshop 2a: Managing Change in Media Space: Social Media, Information Disorder, and Voting Dynamics Part 1 (60')	Flash 4: The Internet is for Everyone: Overcoming disabilities and limitations (45')	Baltic Domain Days 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Regulation Impact on Domain Industry Domains and Intellectual Property Protection: Roads and Crossroads EURID and EUIPO Collaboration to Raise Awareness about Trademarks and Domain Names
	Break (15')		Break (15')	
16:00 - 16:45	Subtopic 2: European approach on data governance (45')	Break (45')	Flash 5: Impact Assessment Toolkit – Hands on (45')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disputes between Domain and Intellectual Property Objects
16:45 - 17:45	Break (15')	Workshop 2b: Managing Change in Media Space: Social Media, Information Disorder, and Voting Dynamics Part 2 (60')	Break (15')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigating the Regulatory Landscape. Domain Names & Intellectual Property.
	Subtopic 3: Empowering communities: partnerships for access to services (45')		Flash 6: Reignite Multilateralism via Technology (REMIT) – Research results (45')	
17:45 - 18:30	Intergenerational dialogue – reflection of the day with YOU¹⁸DIG fellows, Gabija Skučaitė, Chancellor of the SMK College of Applied Sciences, and Nigel Hickson, Head Internet Governance Policy at the UK DSIT (45')			
18:45	Lithuanian social evening at the Vilnius Town Hall!			

19 June 2024

Time (EEST UTC+3)	Sessions			
	Auditorium	WS room 1	WS room 2 <i>self organised sessions</i>	Building 4, Event Hall
09:00 - 10:00	9:00 - 9:45 Drafting the EuroDIG Messages on the international processes (GDC, WSIS+20, NETmundial+10) Registration for onsite participants			
	Main Topic 3: Artificial Intelligence			
10:00 - 10:30	Keynotes (2 x 15') • Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe • Tomas Lamanuskas, Deputy Secretary-General of the International Tele- communication Union (ITU)			
10:30 - 11:30	Subtopic 1: Innovation and ethical implication (45')	Workshop 3: Network Evolution: Challenges and Solutions (60')	Flash 7: Digital skills for the jobs of today and tomorrow – join the debate (45')	Baltic Domain Days 2024 • Security for and by DNS • Secrets of Success – Why do European ccTLDs Have Such Low Rates of DNS Abuse? • Protection of Citizens on the Internet. Lithuanian approach.
	Break (15')		Break (15')	
11:30 - 12:15	Subtopic 2: The Framework Convention on AI and human rights, democracy and the rule of law (45')	Break (45')	Flash 8: Build your safe online presence with .eu (45')	• Decade of DNSSEC in the Baltics: is it a Long Road?
12:15 - 13:15	Break (15')	Workshop 4: Challenges and Opportunities: Emerging Technologies and Sustainability Impacts (60')	Break (15')	• The Role of DNS in Securing Internet
	Subtopic 3: Identification of AI-generated content (45')		Flash 9: eID – the future of electronic identification (45')	
13:15 - 14:30	Break (75')			
14:30 - 15:00	Intergenerational dialogue – reflection of the day with YOU th DIG fellows and Hon. Gennaro Migliore, Director and Board Member of the PAM Centre for Global Studies (30')			
15:00 - 16:00	Outlook IGF 2024 • Dr Amal A. Alawdah, Advisor and Director of International Research and Publishing Agreeing on the Messages and Wrap up (60')			

EuroDIG
European Dialogue on
Internet Governance

Welcome

Vilnius,

17–19 June 2024

Balancing innovation
and regulation

Welcome

This session report is generated by the DiploAI system.

For more details visit <https://dig.watch/event/eurodig-2024/>

The European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) 2024 officially commenced in Vilnius, Lithuania, with a series of welcoming addresses from distinguished figures, each underscoring the significance of the conference's theme: Balancing Innovation and Regulation in the digital realm.



The **President of the Republic of Lithuania, Gitanas Nausėda**, opened the event by welcoming the delegates and stressing the potential global impact of the discussions set to take place in Vilnius. He highlighted the centrality of the human element amidst technological advancements and cautioned against the misuse of technology. President Nausėda also took pride in Lithuania's initiatives to enhance digital literacy among seniors, demonstrating the country's commitment to digital inclusion.



Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė continued the theme of digital responsibility, addressing the challenges posed by disinformation and the exploitation of social networks by authoritarian regimes. She called for an international regulatory framework that balances the need for control with the preservation of freedom of expression and innovation. The Prime Minister showcased Lithuania's strides in public sector innovation, particularly through the creation of the State Data Agency and the GovTech Lab, which exemplify the country's dedication to data-driven governance and innovation.



Rima Aukštuolytė, the session’s moderator and a Lithuanian communications expert, welcomed the participants and shared a local legend about the founding of Vilnius, symbolising the city’s legacy of disseminating messages far and wide.



Jūratė Šovienė, Chair of the Council of Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania, delivered an insightful speech that touched on the capabilities of technology, such as ChatGPT, to assist in crafting speeches for various purposes. She drew a parallel between the digital revolution and Gutenberg’s printing press, reminding the audience that the true essence of digital transformation is the people it serves. Šovienė called for EuroDIG to serve as a storytelling platform, encouraging the sharing of personal and organisational narratives to better understand and shape the digital world.



Professor **Edita Gimžauskienė** from Kaunas University of Technology represented the academic sector, emphasising the importance of dialogue, diversity, and community in building a secure and resilient society. She highlighted the event’s commitment to openness and transparency, which are key to successful outcomes.



Sandra Hoferichter, Secretary General of EuroDIG, and **Thomas Schneider**, President of the EuroDIG Support Association, jointly thanked the hosts and highlighted the growing relevance of global digital governance processes. They encouraged active participation in developing a vision for more inclusive and transparent digital policymaking and announced the impressive number of registrations for the event, signalling a strong interest in the conference’s agenda.



Agnė Vaiciukevičiūtė, Lithuania’s Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, took to the stage with a keynote address that conveyed pride in hosting the gathering in Vilnius. She praised the event’s agenda for its breadth and the participants for their engagement and insightful contributions to previous discussions. Emphasizing the need for critical reflection on the relevance and effectiveness of internet governance platforms such as the IGF and WSIS, Vaiciukevičiūtė posed challenging questions about their future in light of the global digital compact. She advocated for open dialogue, encouraging participants to share their personal perspectives and to step away from scripted remarks, in order to foster a more genuine exchange of ideas.

In summary, the opening session of EuroDIG 2024 set a collaborative tone, with a clear focus on the human-centric approach to technology and the need for collective efforts in shaping internet governance. The event was presented as a unique opportunity for stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue, exchange insights, and work towards a more inclusive and effective digital future.

EuroDIG
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Global Internet
governance
processes

Vilnius,
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Global Internet governance processes

2024 is shaping up to be a landmark year for global Internet governance. The development of a UN Global Digital Compact, the preparations for next year’s 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society, NETmundial+10, and the São Paulo Guidelines that it produced have inspired stakeholders from all regions and backgrounds to debate how best to govern our global digital environment for the benefit of all. Meanwhile, both technology and regulation are rapidly evolving, challenging the commitment to a multistakeholder approach, as well as our ability to manage the adoption and spread of new technologies and applications. Will these efforts be sufficient to harness the myriad new opportunities, while understanding and addressing the emerging risks?

The EuroDIG 2024 Opening Plenary was an opportunity to take stock of these diverse processes and the Internet governance space more generally. This session was the preliminary culmination of a series of virtual consultations, and face-to-face meetings within the framework of EuroDIG.

At a time when cooperation and coordination are more necessary and important than ever, this multistakeholder panel did explore the links between different initiatives, the common elements emerging, and the gaps that must be filled if we are to realise the WSIS vision of a “people-centred” Information Society.

Keynotes

Carol Roach

IGF MAG Chair (2024), ICT strategist and e-Government expert for the Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas



“EuroDIG is indeed one of the leading examples of good stakeholder engagement. ... I want you to know that we are all immensely grateful for your region’s participation.”

Tawfik Jelassi

Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO
(Video message)



“At UNESCO, we firmly believe that global digital cooperation is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Messages on the Global Digital Compact



EuroDIG looks forward to the opportunities to amplify the purpose and objectives of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) following the Summit of the Future. EuroDIG offers to play its part in contributing to and monitoring progress in the implementation of GDC commitments.

EuroDIG strongly supports the commitment in the Rev.1 draft text of the GDC to strengthen the multistakeholder model of governance and advises against any watering down of this commitment in the finalisation of the text.

EuroDIG believes that the GDC process should build on the strong foundations and accomplishments of the WSIS instead of creating new mechanisms.

EuroDIG supports enhancing the role of the UN IGF.

EuroDIG recommends simplifying the process of GDC follow up and review of the implementation of the GDC commitments, with a substantive role for the Internet Governance Forum and the WSIS Forum so that non-governmental stakeholders can fully contribute to the process.

Messages on the WSIS+20 Review



EuroDIG recognises the positive linkages between the WSIS+20 Review, the Global Digital Compact and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

EuroDIG believes there needs to be a comprehensive understanding of the process of the WSIS+20 review.

The review should not undermine the achievements of both the 2003 and the 2005 phases of the WSIS. It should instead be primarily an opportunity to enhance the processes of Internet governance, global digital policy and cooperation, by using the Sao Paulo Guidelines as an inspiration for making processes more inclusive, transparent and accountable.

EuroDIG
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Main Topics

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Main Topic 1

European policies and strategies

As Europe’s digital transformation gets underway, it is vital to address both, the challenges and the opportunities arising from rapid technological development and innovation. Measures need to be based and guided by human rights. The prevailing challenges highlight the imperative need for holistic approaches that integrate regulatory frameworks, global standards, foster stakeholder dialogue and collaboration, and implement adaptive strategies to effectively address the complexities and challenges of issues arising at the intersection of digital human rights, cybersecurity, and standard setting

Keynotes

Rasma Ramoškaitė

Director at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania



“I also wanted to mention that it is important to enhance the synergies between different instruments and initiatives that contribute to the global digital agenda.”

Irena Guidikova

Head of Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department, Council of Europe



“Self-regulation was, in the early days of the Internet, the go-to approach. ... A few years on, we saw that self-regulation is not really working.”

Subtopic 1

Human Rights in the Digital Era, Europe's Role in Safeguarding Human Rights Online

Rapporteur: Minda Moreira, Programme Committee 2024



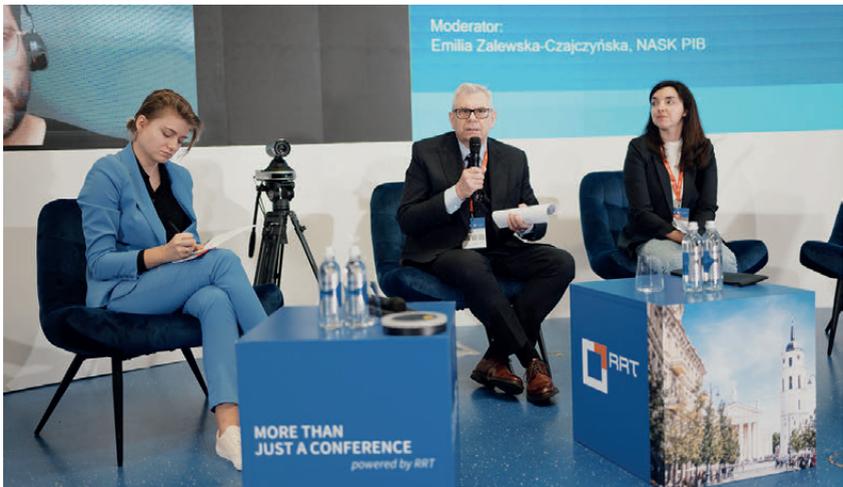
There is an urgent need to ensure effective implementation of human rights frameworks online and to address the lack of awareness of these frameworks. A concerted multistakeholder effort is crucial to a) help develop a clear and robust legal framework, b) ensure a proactive role of civil society in influencing discourse, shaping and monitoring implementation, and c) emphasize the social responsibility of the private sector and its duty to respect the rights of users.

Subtopic 2

One for All, All for One: The Role of Cooperation in Enhancing Cyber Resilience in Europe

Rapporteur: Minda Moreira, Programme Committee 2024

Concerted and coordinated efforts must be built on trust, cross-sectoral collaboration and international cooperation because they are vital to address cybersecurity challenges. These should include mechanisms for cyber cooperation in critical situations such as wartime. This requires training and education, as well as inclusive cybersecurity measures that cater to all segments of society.



Subtopic 3

You on Signal and Me on Telegram – Messenger Interoperability by EU Regulation

Rapporteur: Minda Moreira, Programme Committee 2024



Interoperability relies on the technical – protocol – interoperability, which is being addressed through standardisation in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), as well on the operational and economic will to connect and exchange. It is vital to develop and refine mechanisms of market evaluation, enhance user choice, maintain end-to-end encryption and privacy across different platforms. The extraterritorial implications of the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the potential impact on users who rely on non-EU messaging services must be addressed.

Main Topic 2

GovTech – Putting people first in digitalizing public services and the use of data

These sessions did provide an overview on how governments are responding to the pressure to follow the progress in digital and the need to upgrade public services/processes. Inevitable transformation in evolving regulatory and technological landscape brings not only benefits but raises multiple concerns about privacy, use of data, limitations for activities of certain actors. Putting people in the center as a prerequisite of any strategy did drive these discussions.

Keynotes

Jūratė Šovienė

Chair of the Council of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania



“The questions of internet governance, digital literacy, safer internet should be on the policymakers’ agenda, on a minister’s agenda”

Bernadette Lewis

Secretary General of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation



“I believe there is a need for a new social contract, one that puts the citizen at the center of the government’s activities, we should be aiming for citizen serving, not self-serving government.”

Subtopic 1

GovTech Dynamics: Navigating Innovation and Challenges in Public Services.

Rapporteur: Riccardo Nanni, Programme Committee 2024



Digital transformation in Public Administrations (PAs) comes with the need of stronger digital skills, which may come with mandatory training for civil servants. Challenges include digital skill gaps, data analysis capabilities, and regulatory barriers, requiring a shift towards enabling innovation. Cities and other PAs can innovate in collaboration with academia and the private sector with such projects as the GovTech Lab. These labs test new policies and technologies, fostering innovation through skill development and co-creation. Design thinking and user experience should prioritize simplicity and functionality. Cities can use open data dashboards to be more transparent to citizens by allowing them to easily visualize data about their living environment. Future challenges include digital identification, AI regulations, and ensuring technology accessibility for all, including senior citizens. Practical strategies and public co-creation are necessary for meaningful change.

Subtopic 2

European approach on data governance

Rapporteur: Riccardo Nanni, Programme Committee 2024



The new EU legislation on data is creating new scenarios. Despite it, the EU GDPR, the CoE Convention 108+, and the “privacy at all cost” approach are still central as the Digital Governance Act recognizes the prevalence of privacy legislation. Tension exists between the need to explore data and to open it for the PA to be transparent and the need to protect citizens’ right to privacy. The new EU legislation (Data Governance Act and Data Act) tries to strike a balance between the two. The European values enshrined in GDPR are being adopted elsewhere, both because of EU influence and because of recognition of their validity. Furthermore, the CoE Convention 108+ is open for signature by non-member states too.

Subtopic 3

Empowering communities: partnerships for access to services

Rapporteur: Riccardo Nanni, Programme Committee 2024



Digitalization became more and more relevant after Covid and the new climate change-related catastrophe. Digital instruments allow rescuers and PAs to quickly identify who is in need and where on a specific territory. Nonetheless, catastrophes also make the digital infrastructure vulnerable as disruption in communication can be caused by unusual weather events. Large amounts of the population still have no or little access to the Internet, which is particularly true for people living in low income and/or remote areas. This yields discrimination in access to services and opportunities. However, this digital divide can be bridged with relatively cheap connectivity infrastructure: examples exist of public-private partnerships that reduce costs for bringing connectivity to rural areas. On top of improved connectivity, services should be easily accessible with straightforward interfaces that require little expertise (accessibility by design).

Main Topic 3

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the most promising new technologies, but among the most challenging for society and regulators. Intense ethical discussions have been underway for some time and continue to evolve as the use cases for AI become clearer. Comprehensive regulations are being enacted, and we are yet to find reliably solutions to identify AI-generated content.

Keynotes

Marija Pejčinović Burić

Secretary General of the Council of Europe



“... the Council of Europe’s foreign ministers adopted our new Framework Convention on artificial intelligence and human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. ... This treaty has the potential to ensure safer, more secure artificial intelligence. Not just in Europe, but around the world”

Tomas Lamanuskas

Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)



“The fast pace of tech development compared to the relative slowness of developing international laws and institutions, ..., only underscores the need to leverage existing instruments and governance structures, including those in the UN system.”

Subtopic 1

Innovation and ethical implication

Rapporteur: Jörn Erbguth, Programme Committee 2024



The proliferation of AI-related initiatives and documents and the adoption of regulatory and human rights frameworks is key to fostering user's trust in AI technologies, to tackle AI's complexity and applications and to provide tailored solutions to the specific needs of the diverse stakeholders. A multistakeholder approach to AI governance is crucial to ensure that AI development and use are informed by a variety of perspectives to minimise bias and serve the interests of society. A pressing ethical concern is the military use of AI which is yet to be addressed by existing regulatory frameworks but will need more focused attention in the near future.

Subtopic 2

The Framework Convention on AI and human rights, democracy and the rule of law

Rapporteur: Jörn Erbguth, Programme Committee 2024

The CoE Framework Convention on AI and human rights, democracy and the rule of law is an important step towards a global approach to AI regulation. The CoE Framework and the EU AI Act compliment each other. Further steps should follow, by taking into account the need to address the growing issues of AI from a global, rather than a regional perspective.



Subtopic 3

Identification of AI-generated content

Rapporteur: Jörn Erbguth, Programme Committee 2024



Current AI detection systems are unreliable or even arbitrary. They should not be used other than in an experimental context with a very high level of caution and particularly not for assessing works of students. Without reliable AI detectors, we have to rely on education and critical assessment of content that takes into account that any content can easily be generated by AI. Watermarking and certification of origin should be a more reliable means to authenticate content and should be supported by regulation.





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Workshops
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Workshops



Workshop 1a

Child Safety Online – Update on Legal Regulatory Trends Combatting Child Sexual Abuse Online

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, Eumans

1. Advancements in legal and regulatory measures on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

Workshop 1a discussed three recent measures on the protection of children from online Child Sexual Abuse (CSA): the proposed EU CSA Regulation (CSAR), the new UK Online Safety Act, and the positive results from the Lithuanian Law on the Protection of Minors against detrimental effects of public information. An agreement was found on the need for better regulation in this field, emphasising the accountability of online service providers for monitoring illegal and harmful material and safeguarding minors.

2. Major concerns and benefits

CSA is currently increasing exponentially and has serious consequences for the rights and development of children. For this reason, recognising such depictions and preventing child sexual abuse should go hand in hand. Participants are concerned about the safety of users, including with regard to the potential use of technology. Breaches of confidential communication or anonymity are seen critically. At the same time, advantages are recognised in the regulations, e.g. with regard to problem awareness or safety by design approaches. Age verification procedures are perceived as both a risk and an advantage. However, this should not be at the expense of anonymity and participation.

3. The interplay of privacy and safety

The participants of Workshop 1a of EuroDIG believe privacy and safety are intertwined and inseparable, advocating that legal solutions to combat child sexual abuse online must strive to optimise both. These measures should be centred on children's rights and their best interests, as a way forward to achieve this balance.

Workshop 1b

Protecting vulnerable groups online from harmful content – new (technical) approaches

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, Eumans

1. Type of content:

Self-generated abusive material and pathological content are emerging as the most widespread harms to vulnerable groups online. All stakeholders are aware that measures and regulations must be taken to protect vulnerable groups. They are also aware that the rights and needs for protection against violence and abuse as well as privacy and participation must be guaranteed.

2. Minimizing the Impact on Privacy, Inclusive, and Accessible Technical Approaches:

Client-side scanning for detecting known CSAM online involves methods that can minimise the impact on privacy, learning nothing about the content of a message except whether an image matches known illegal content. Concerns are raised about anti-grooming techniques analysing visual and textual data, while the use of AI raises questions about proxies, bias, and accuracy. Effective task-based models that respect privacy require comprehensive and accurate data, especially the use of metadata. Authorities play a critical role in double-checking the effectiveness of these measures and privacy compliance. Looking ahead, data-saving and anonymity-preserving age verification mechanisms could be a future-proof solution for robust verification and privacy protection.

3. Diversity and Multistakeholder Philosophy:

A diversified multistakeholder approach is required to ensure that solutions are comprehensive in addressing harmful online content. Significant weight should be given to civil society, including individuals from vulnerable groups, like minors, and non-technical backgrounds, should be involved in this process and their perspectives taken into account. Finally, EuroDIG's Workshop 1b supports the direction, great importance, and urgency of a uniform legal framework such as the EU's CSAR.

Workshop 2a

Managing Change in Media Space: Social Media, Information Disorder, and Voting Dynamics

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, Eumans

1. Impact and Challenges of the EU Elections

Disinformation campaigns before EU elections targeted issues like Ukraine, COVID-19, and the state of EU democracy, aiming to manipulate public opinion and polarize voters. While immediate election periods showed reduced incidents, AI and traditional methods play crucial roles in maintaining (or degrading) electoral integrity and ensuring (or threatening) access to verified political content. The measures put in place by the EU (through funding an independent organisation like EDMO, the Code of Practice on Disinformation, the EEAS, the European Parliament, and a network of fact-checkers) have succeeded in mitigating the impact of foreign interference. However, concerns remain about the spreading of mistrust in democratic institutions.

2. Possible Solutions

To combat disinformation, a multimethod approach includes independent fact-checking, international collaboration on research and demonetisation strategies, and holding digital platforms accountable^[1]. The representative of Meta's oversight board presented recommendations addressed to the platform about how to operate during elections. Educating users in critical thinking and media literacy, along with developing voter-friendly communication, enhances electoral transparency and promotes informed electoral participation. Besides, the long-term financial sustainability of reliable media is key to managing effective strategies.

3. Multi-dimensional Approach

Addressing media manipulation and electoral integrity requires enhanced cooperation between states, platforms, and civil society with a multi-dimensional approach involving diverse stakeholders, multi-disciplinary expertise (e.g. psychosociology, neurology, linguistics, communications, etc.), multi-level governance (from international to local), and the development of inclusive multilingual standards.

^[1] See the full document here: <https://www.oversightboard.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Oversight-Board-Elections-Paper-May-2024FINAL.pdf>

Workshop 2b

Managing Change in Media Space: Social Media, Information Disorder, and Voting Dynamics

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, Eumans

1. General Mistrust in Democratic Institutions

In 2024, amid widespread distrust in democratic institutions globally, approximately 4 billion people engage in elections. Information (both digital and traditional) is increasingly crafted for entertainment, gamification, and political polarisation, amplified by Artificial Intelligence through propaganda, translation services, and micro-targeting. More specifically, social media platforms serve as crucial feedback and control channels for governments, particularly in the Global South.

2. Diversified and Tailored Solutions

To tackle these challenges, promoting media literacy in educational curricula is essential, fostering critical thinking and fact-checking skills. Creating a symbiotic relationship between stakeholders (taking proactive measures to combat disinformation) and users (encouraged to adopt critical thinking practices and rely on verified sources) strengthens resilience against misinformation. Besides, tailored solutions are crucial: e.g. Central-Eastern Europe frames disinformation geopolitically, African countries grapple with centralised power dynamics, and India faces issues with social media micro-profiling. Finally, empowering community leaders strengthens local resilience by leveraging their influence to promote accurate information.

3. Focus on Inclusivity and Social Media

An inclusive global approach to infrastructure development avoids biases and ensures equitable solutions across regions. Prioritising efforts on social media platforms, especially in the Global South where youth and mobile access are influential, enhances interventions against disinformation and supports transparent electoral processes.

Workshop 3

Network Evolution: Challenges and Solutions

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, Eumans

1. Discussion of the EU Commission Draft White Paper

The current state of network infrastructure and computing continuum is inadequate to provide universal access to the Internet in the EU, with weaknesses in the cloud and AI sectors. Financial pressures (e.g. investment challenges and low conversion rates), worsened by the disaggregation of hardware and software, threaten long-term technological advancement and digitalisation.

2. Key Concerns

The Draft White Paper focuses on creating a single digital market with secure infrastructure and sustainable competition. However there are significant market and financial pressures that would result. Therefore, there is a need to increase scalability, and pressure to improve network capabilities to meet the minimum capabilities noted. The only way this can be pursued is by significant investing in technology and improving efficiency through the implementation of new technology such as optical fibre, and smart networks.

3. The Draft White Paper proposes an Integrated, Flexible, and Consumer-Centered Network Model

Progressing the evolution of the network has significant challenges with the cost to replace current infrastructure, and improve network capabilities to offer speeds and access under the paper's proposal. The imbalance created between incumbents and new network operators will also need to be addressed through regulator guidance in order to mitigate financial and technical harms. There is a need to continue the discussion to establish threshold criteria, and to investigate consumer needs and expectations as no one solution will meet everyone's expectations.

Workshop 4

Challenges and Opportunities: Emerging Technologies and Sustainability Impacts

Rapporteur: Francesco Vecchi, Eumans

1. Interconnection of the Twin Transitions

The digital and environmental transitions are interconnected and, together, can achieve the goal of reducing emissions by 2050. EuroDIG supports the EU's mission to balance sustainability with privacy, security, safety, pluralism, and freedom of expression, recognising that these elements must coexist harmoniously in the pursuit of a greener future.

2. Sustainable Digital Solutions

Adopting a sustainability-by-design approach involves making technology inherently more sustainable while using digital solutions to promote sustainability. It is also essential to develop common indicators, guidelines, and standards, including the right to repair. In this sense, the focus of regulation should be shifted towards the Internet itself, rather than solely on infrastructure or products, by providing greener websites, protocols, and standards; and governance practices that prioritise environmental concerns. Emphasis should be given to sustainability practices for smartphones, including operating system diversity, genuine social media engagement, and Free and Open Source Software (FOSS).

3. Human-centric Multistakeholder Approach

In crafting recommendations and guidelines, a human-centric multistakeholder approach ensures that diverse perspectives are considered and that technological advancements serve the needs and values of individuals, fostering an inclusive and sustainable digital environment.

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YOUth DIG
Messages

Vilnius,
17–19 June 2024
Balancing innovation
and regulation

YOUthDIG

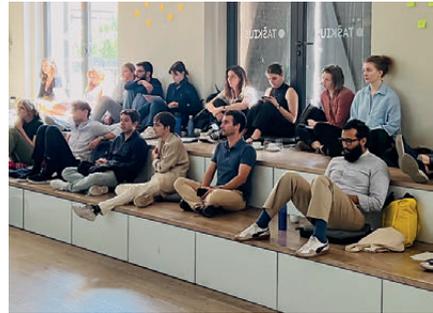
... is the Youth Dialogue on Internet Governance, a yearly pre-event to the European Dialogue on Internet Governance that aims to foster active youth participation.

YOUthDIG is unique in building the agenda and formulating messages.

- The agenda is set by former participants.
- During the sessions participants bring in their local issues, challenges, and individual backgrounds.
- The messages drafting is a collaborative process and focuses on the question “What are the most important issues and challenges we want to bring to the attention of European decision-makers?”
- YOUthDIG focuses not only on content, but also on skill building.

In May the cohort started with introductory webinars on Internet governance and policies and collaborated on a series of short-format inputs based on their own expertise. YOUthDIG as in person meeting started 3 days before EuroDIG. Addressed issues included conflicts in the digital age, digital sustainable consumption, the impact of AI and corresponding regulations, and how to contribute to and stay involved in the Internet governance ecosystem. The sessions were supported by a wide range of guest experts. Social events took place in the evenings to foster team building among the participants. During these days, the YOUthDIG Messages were formulated and presented at EuroDIG.





The increasing demand for young people to be recognised as stakeholders requires empowering youth in Internet Governance. This involves integrating their concerns and perspectives that are often underrepresented. To facilitate this inclusivity at the EuroDIG conference, a series of Intergenerational Dialogues was in-



roduced this year and brought together senior EuroDIG attendees, along with former and current YOUthDIG participants, providing an open and comprehensive platform to present youths' impressions on the topics and discuss the YOUthDIG Messages. This dialogue aimed to bridge the gap between generations, fostering mutual understanding and collaborative efforts. During the session, youth participants (18-30 years of age) reflected on the day's agenda and continued to raise pressing issues in a fireside chat together with senior experts in Internet-related policymaking and diplomacy.

YOUthDIG Messages



Policy Propositions on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights Discrimination in AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to reinforce and create new forms of discrimination. This stems from the inherent biases in data, which is far from neutral and often reflects existing societal prejudices and bias. To face these issues, we propose transparency as a key action. Implementing synthetic data and involving focus groups, particularly those representing minority and intersectional backgrounds, can ensure a more balanced and inclusive dataset, making AI systems more sensitive to diverse perspectives.

Moreover, there is a pressing need for legal clarification regarding responsibility for discrimination in AI. Clear guidelines and accountability measures must be established to effectively address and prevent bias.

Bias of Policy Makers Due to Techno-Solutionism

Policy makers sometimes fall into the trap of techno-solutionism, relying heavily on technological fixes without considering the broader social context. To counter this bias, an interdisciplinary approach is essential. By involving experts from various fields – technology, sociology, ethics, and law – more sustainable and holistic solutions can be achieved, including the professional background of multiple representatives.

A multistakeholder approach is also fundamental. Collaboration across different sectors and disciplines will ensure that diverse viewpoints are considered, which leads to more applicable and comprehensive policies. To facilitate this, we

propose the creation of a dedicated body focused on intersectional and interdisciplinary collaboration. This body would meet regularly to assess ongoing issues and work towards continuous improvement through cooperative efforts.

AI in Border Control

The use of AI in border control raises significant human rights concerns, particularly for refugees and individuals crossing borders who are inherently vulnerable. The collection of biometric data often occurs without proper consent, exacerbating these concerns.

Furthermore, AI is not a solution to the migration crisis. In fact, the inherent biases and risks associated with AI could worsen discrimination and lead to unjust outcomes. Therefore, the use of AI in border control should be prohibited, prioritising human rights and ethical considerations above technological solutions. These policy propositions aim to address critical issues at the intersection of AI and human rights. By promoting transparency, accountability, and interdisciplinary collaboration, we can ensure the ethical and fair use of AI technologies.

Education

Our goal is to empower individuals through education, to enable them to assert their AI and digital rights and critically analyse technological solutions. We encourage the implementation of constructive and informative campaigns to raise awareness of AI impacts. Additionally, we advocate for the integration of AI literacy into school curriculums.

Data for AI Training

AI programs are “trained” by being exposed to large quantities of existing works, photos, information, and data. Public awareness of how our data are used, especially in training new AI programs, is very low. Most people are unaware that their personal photographs are being used for AI training. Even when notifications are provided, they are often buried in general Terms and Conditions or presented in a way that users do not fully understand. Currently, users can opt-out, but as this issue grows, we propose that users must explicitly opt-in, following the GDPR example. Obtaining explicit consent for using personal content should become paramount.

Given the vast scope of the data in question and the economic interests of businesses, this issue should be standardized at the international or EU level. Precise recommendations and obligations should be imposed on companies, non-governmental organizations, governmental institutions, and all stakeholders. This regu-

lation should ensure that consent is obtained from individuals whose biometric data are being used to train models that generate new content.

Techno-Solutionism

Using AI to solve problems may seem progressive, glamorous, and investment-worthy. However, AI might not be the most efficient way to solve a problem, for example, in public services from waste to migration management. In fact, it may even create new issues, as is expected with online child safety measures, such as biometric age verification or client-side scanning.

We urge integrating a comprehensive, multistakeholder impact assessment and analysis of both actual and potential checks and balances before implementing AI as a problem-solving tool, be it in digital policy or for practical issues. We urge policymakers to carefully consider this impact assessment, provide justification for their decisions, and be held accountable based on the assessment and associated risks and costs.

Deepfakes

Deepfake videos are increasingly common in the media, especially during crises and elections. This misinformation prevents rational decision-making, increases suspicion in institutions, and harms democracy. To combat this, Europe needs a legal framework for deepfake usage, funding for detection technologies, and mandatory labeling for all deepfakes to ensure transparency.

We propose a system to confirm the authenticity of information, such as a “badge of authenticity” using a QR code or blue tick circle. Media houses could use this system to verify content. Additionally, educating citizens on recognizing misinformation and working with technology companies would strengthen this effort. These measures will help protect society from the damaging effects of fake news and deepfakes, ensuring a more informed and democratic populace.

An intersectional approach for youth participation for a better Internet governance future

Representation:

- The creation of spaces with co-management structures for youth to provide policy recommendations while monitoring the implementation of these actions.
- Promoting a requirement for young people to have a ‘seat at the table’ by developing standards and recommendations to encourage the fostering of meaningful participation and inclusion in high level discussions.

- Increasing the stream of additional stable funding and income for youth organizations (including youth councils), such as operational grants, thus, assessing and monitoring successful implementation.

Education:

- Strengthen both non-formal and formal education via collaborative efforts amongst the relevant stakeholders such as young people; decision makers; experts; academia and many more by working towards and understanding how and why education needs tailored to specific groups through the following topics: *youth participation*, *digital literacy* (including how bias is present in the online sphere), *inclusivity* and *accessibility*, and finally, through *critical thinking*.
- Recognise the current work of non-formal education agents on these topics for the creation of an organized European curriculum that can be implemented in formal education.
- This educational program would follow the 'youth for youth' principle, where the young people would be, within the participatory model, included in all aspects of design and development processes, adopting an intersectional approach.

Inclusivity:

- Inclusivity starts with language, and we should ensure that all policies and regulations are transparent and comprehensible to everyone, specifically the youth; limiting things like overuse of technical jargon. Policy briefs and documents need to have a youth-friendly version which can explain things transparently, including how these policies affect everyday life.
- An intercultural aspect is also crucial for an inclusive environment, therefore LLMs should be trained in different (European) languages to reduce inequalities in access to information and knowledge. To ensure accuracy, this needs to have some level of human verification wherever possible. This could be achieved, for example, in partnership with local universities.
- Apply standards that make online spheres more accessible, demanding all websites to have accessible features such as services for people with disabilities (visual and hearing impairments) to ensure that access to all content is equal.

For the successful development of the points above, it is crucial to have secured stable funding and adopt an intersectional approach to ensure no one is left behind.

Fair and Privacy Preserving Use of Data

Data Privacy shouldn't be subject to one's personal, social and economic status.

- Meaning that: Information about data collection and data use must be presented to users transparently, in simple language and easy to understand.
- A crackdown on dark patterns – outlawing dark patterns and empower consumer agencies to identify.
- Creating a standard of having to opt in for sharing data without penalty or exclusion of the users.

In the long term, we demand to take the burden away from users in terms of privacy experience and shifting power back to them, allowing users to decide what information to be shared about themselves.

New Economics of Data

We acknowledge that Data is an asset, the product of users labour and it is used as a commodity to facilitate price discrimination. Therefore, we advocate for preventing companies from increasing prices of products and services based on users' personal data shared without their consent

Age verification

We are seriously concerned about children's welfare, and we acknowledge that an effective technical solution to protect children online without infringing on privacy has yet to be discovered.

Entities who wish to improve children's welfare online should not expand on privacy reducing technocentric solutions, but prioritize:

- Strengthening law enforcement financially, educationally and structurally.
- Shifting liability to providers of explicit and mature rated content.

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Networking opportunities

Vilnius,
17–19 June 2024
Balancing innovation
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Networking opportunities

The Baltic Domain Days 2024 as a joint initiative of the three Baltic States top level domain registries and this year's host partner Kaunas University of Technology, invited attendees to a welcome reception on 17 June. The entertainment at the event was driven by Jurgis Didžiulis.



On 18 June, we were welcomed by our host, the Lithuanian Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT), in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania and the Information Society Development Committee, to a Lithuanian Social Evening at Vilnius City Hall. Music was performed by the band AG360822 from Switzerland.



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The meeting venue offered splendid networking opportunities at the former university area.



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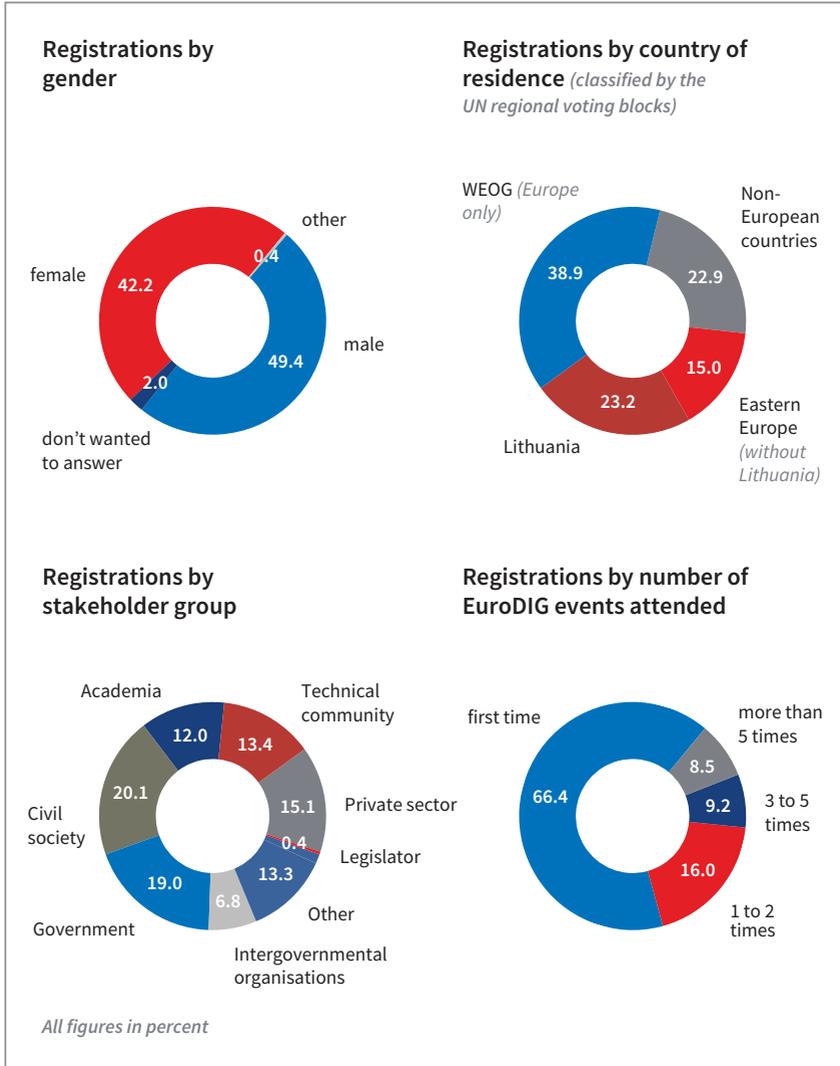
Facts and Figures

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Breakdown of registrations and participation

Registrations for EuroDIG and the Baltic Domain Days 2024

We received 822 registrations. The following numbers are based on these. Out of 455 delegates who registered for on-site participation 340 people picked up a badge.



Participation for EuroDIG

The post-event analysis showed that about 350 different people logged on to Zoom during the three days. Breakdown per room and day are shown in the table below:

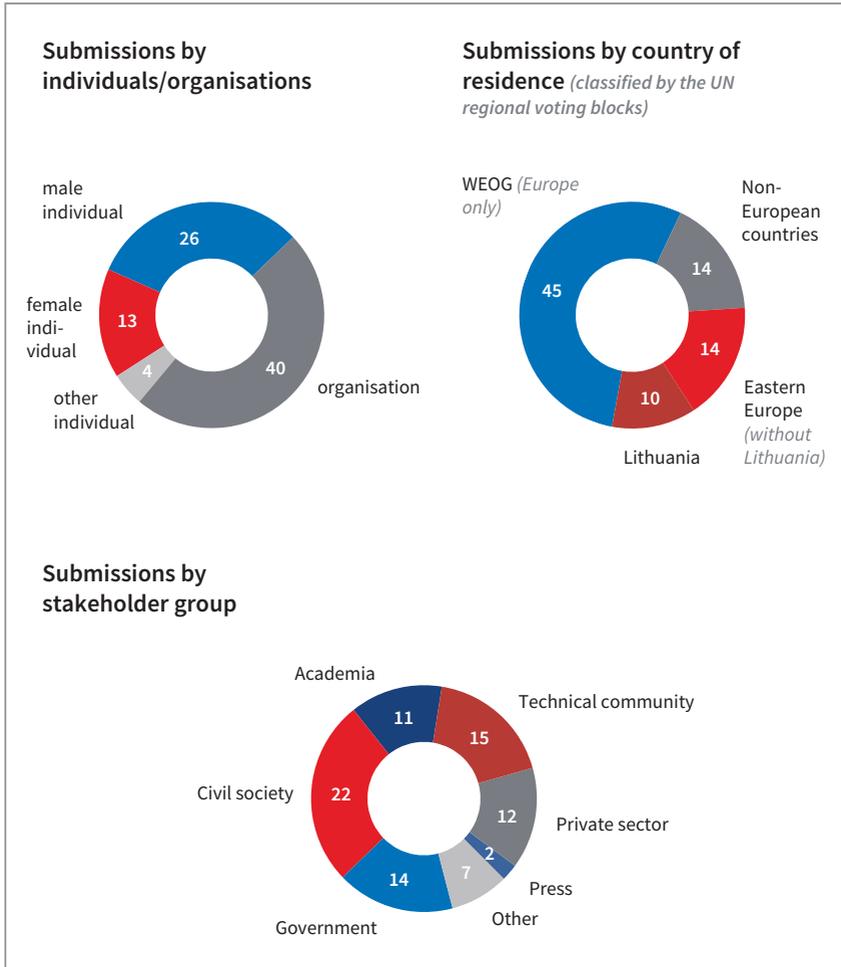
Zoom Rooms			
<i>Unique participants per day</i>			
	17 June	18 June	19 June
Auditorium	116	110	86
WS room 1	87	71	31
WS room 2	53	63	14
Building 4, Event Hall	54	-	-

We offered no live streaming during the event this year but we provided the recordings for each session afterwards on our YouTube channel.^[1] Until the end of July 872 views were counted.

^[1] <https://www.youtube.com/user/EuroDIG>

Breakdown of submissions

During the call for issues for EuroDIG we received 83 submissions in the period from 1 October till 31 December 2023.







Get involved!

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Pictures

Title: Go Vilnius · pages 5, 13, 14, 17 bottom, 18, 20-31, 34, 42, 43 top left + bottom, 44, 50, 51, 52 top + middle left + bottom: photos by Justinas Auškelis · page 12 top: screen capture from video of The President of the Republic of Lithuania, Gitanas Nausėda · page 12 bottom: screen capture from video of The Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė · page 16: screen capture from EuroDIG session recordings 2024 · page 17 top: screen capture from video message by Tawfik Jelassi, UNESCO · pages 43 top right, 52 middle right: photos by Sandra Hoferichter

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