



Presidency of Latvia
Council of Europe
MAY – NOVEMBER 2023

Présidence de la Lettonie
Conseil de l'Europe
MAI – NOVEMBRE 2023

WARM UP SESSION

PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEMOCRACY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Warm up session: “New and emerging digital technologies: risks and opportunities for democracy”

In the light of the Reykjavík Declaration, the discussion will examine the positive impacts and opportunities, as well as the simultaneous risks and negative impacts created by the new and emerging digital technologies and artificial intelligence, on democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Special attention will be paid to the impact on vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the development of digital platforms as tools for citizen engagement will be explored.

15:30 – 16:00 Arrival & Registration

Moderator:

Iveta Kažoka, Centre for Public Policy “PROVIDUS”

16:00 – 17:00 Part I – Panel discussion “Balancing legal frameworks with technological progress: upholding democracy in the digital era of new and emerging technologies and artificial intelligence.”

This discussion will delve into the evolving legal frameworks accompanying the rise of new digital technologies and advancements in artificial intelligence. The potential challenges and risks as well as opportunities that these innovations pose to democracy, human rights and the rule of law will be discussed. Additionally, an emphasis will be on the consequences for governance, civil society and individual rights by the changing legal framework and the emerging technologies. Consequently, initiatives from the European Union and the Council of Europe will be discussed offering an insight on how existing legal structures are already adapting to the changing technological landscape while safeguarding human rights.

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Panelists:

- Siiri Aulik, Head of the Delegation of Estonia to the Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAI) and member of the Bureau
- Kerttu Willamo, Policy and Capacity Building Officer at the European Civic Forum
- Artūrs Kaņepājs, chair of the board at “Effective Altruism Latvia”

17:00 – 17:15 Q&A Session

17:15 – 17:45 Coffee Break

17:45 – 19:00 Part II - Practical examples of the use of digital and AI technologies in the public, NGO and private sector

The second part of the session will be devoted for expert presentations of real-life examples of AI and other digital tools across several sectors. The diverse examples will illustrate how these technologies can enhance decision-making processes, citizen engagement, transparency and other good governance practices, exemplifying the transformative potential of technology in strengthening democratic frameworks and governance structures.

Presenters:

- Róbert Bjarnason, Co-founder and President of Citizens Foundation Iceland
- Kaspars Kauliņš, International Business Development Director at Tilde
- Inese Kuške, Consultant for Good Governance Affairs at the Public Administration Development Division of the State Chancellery of Latvia
- Kristel Kriisa, AI Project Manager, Machine Learning and Language Technology Department, Estonian Information System Authority

19:00 Reception & Networking

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