Enlightened trust in governance

EnTrust

Expert Roundtables
Trustworthy Media

How can the EU fight (partisan) Disinformation and Hate Speech and protect Media Freedom and Human Rights?

09 February 2023
16:00 – 18:00 CET
Online event

In the last years, the relationship between the **media and trust in democratic institutions** has received increasingly attention. **Media freedom and pluralism are seen in danger**, sometimes caused by governmental control over media outlets. Regulations such as the **European Media Freedom Act** are being developed to protect editorial independence and make media ownership and concentration more transparent. At the same time, concerns over the **dangers of digital platforms for human rights and democracies** have become more nuanced, accompanied by instruments such as the European Democracy Action plan, the Code of Practice on Disinformation, and the Digital Services Act. Calls for a stronger **regulation of social media** and a **human rights-based approach to content moderation** have grown louder.

In **two roundtables**, we talk with our panellists about **issues, legal instruments, and recommendations** in the context of media freedom and human rights on digital platforms. Other participants will have the opportunity to contribute their own views and ask questions to the panellists. The roundtables will be preceded by the **presentation of research from the EnTrust project** on the role of media in the building of trust and distrust in governance.

16:00 **Welcome and Introduction to the Roundtable**:

Prof. *Christian Lahusen,* University of Siegen, Germany

16:05 **Presentation of the Research Report on Trust and the Media:**

Prof. *Hans-Jörg Trenz,* Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy

The [report] *analysed trust in the media and media content, as well as the mechanisms of trust building in governance through and in the media. The project team drew on desk research, a qualitative content analysis of major news outlets and user comments on news on Facebook, and in-depth interviews with journalists and public authorities involved in fact-checking projects at local, national, and European level. The data collection covered: Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, and Serbia.*

16:15 **First Roundtable: Protecting Media Freedom and Pluralism in Europe**

What are the dangers of governmental control over media outlets? What is the contribution of instruments such as the European Media Freedom Act, the rule of law report, or the European Democracy Action plan to ensure independent, non-partisan public broadcasting and media pluralism? What are the shortcomings of these instruments? What needs to happen at EU level to strengthen media freedom and pluralism in Europe? + Q&A

Barbora Bukovská, Senior Director for Law and Policy, Article 19

Artemiza-Tatiana Chisca, Head of the Media and Internet Division, Council of Europe

Audrius Perkauskas, Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission, Audiovisual and Media Services Policy (CNECT.I.1)

Renate Schroeder, Director, European Federation of Journalists

Moderated by *Alexandrina Najmowicz*, Secretary General, European Civic Forum

10 minutes break

17:10   **Second Roundtable:** Digital Platforms and Human Rights: what is the Role of Regulation?

What are the key dangers and benefits of digital platforms for civic space and human rights? What are current measures at EU level to reduce the dangers, including the Democracy Action plan, the Code of Practice on Disinformation, and the Digital Services Act? Are they enough? What would be challenges in deciding to which extent social media should be regulated? + Q&A

Marie-Hélène Boulanger, Head of Unit at the European Commission, Union Citizenship Rights and Free Movement (JUST.D.3)

Jan Penfrat, Senior Policy Advisor, European Digital Rights

Alberto Rabbachin, Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission, Media Convergence and Social Media (CNECT.I.4)

Moderated by *Marlena Wisniak*, Senior Legal Consultant, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law

17:55   **Closing and concluding Remarks**:

Prof. *Christian Lahusen,* University of Siegen, Germany