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Technical Assistance for Strengthening  
Fundamental Rights Sector Coordination Project

# DIGITAL RIGHTS

## FACTSHEET





## Introduction

The rapid developments in digital technology in recent years bring a wide range of opportunities and threats regarding the promotion and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. The EU strives to introduce principles, standards and rules to minimize such risks at international and national levels and to regulate them in order to maximize opportunities. The digital universe, which can be organised in a way that guarantees individual rights, freedoms and equality as well as the effective and healthy functioning of democracy, will allow for improving welfare in a multifaceted manner for both individuals and societies. However, preventing initiatives that may endanger the rights and freedoms and the healthy functioning of democratic life, while remaining within the framework of the requirements for the protection of law and freedoms, constitutes a necessary but challenging goal..
















As a regulatory power that aims to meet all these requirements, the EU's fundamental goals and policies in the field of digital rights are generally covered by the following policy documents:

EU Digital Single Market Strategy	2030 Digital Compass	Digital Decade Policy Programme	European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles
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These general policy documents mainly aim to:

- ✓ Contribute to economic growth, employment, competition, investment and innovation,
- ✓ Raise a digitally literate society and qualified digital employees,
- ✓ Build solid, functional and durable digital infrastructures,
- ✓ Ensure the digital transformation of businesses, and
- ✓ Ensure the digitalization of public services.

Moreover, the EU takes into account the following principles:

 Human-centred approach	 Solidarity and inclusiveness	 Connectivity	 Digital education, training and skills	 Fair and equitable working conditions
 Online digital public services	 Freedom of choice	 interactions with algorithms and artificial intelligence systems	 A fair digital environment	 Participation in the digital public sphere
 Safety, security and reinforcement	 A protected, safe and secure digital environment	 Privacy and individual control over data	 Protection and empowerment of children and youth in the digital environment, and	 Sustainability

To make these policies more concrete, the EU provides for regulations in various areas. In summary, regarding institutionalization, the EU's actions include:

- ✓ Establishing a European Artificial Intelligence Board within the framework of the Draft Act on Artificial Intelligence,
- ✓ Establishing the European Data Innovation Board under the Data Governance Act
- ✓ Establishing the European Data Protection Board and the European Data Protection Supervisor under the General Data Protection Regulation, and
- ✓ Establishing, in the field of cybersecurity, authorized bodies, offices and agencies such as the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre and the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA).

Moreover, there are various important new regulations published to implement the policies adopted by the EU:

- ✓ Establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027 Regulation (EU) 2023/588
- ✓ Implementation and functioning of the .eu Top-Level Domain Name Regulation (EU) 2019/517
- ✓ General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679,
- ✓ Protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies Regulation (EU) 2018/1725
- ✓ Law Enforcement Directive 2016/680/EU,
- ✓ Open Data Directive (PSI) (EU) 2019/1024,
- ✓ Data Governance Act (EU) 2022/868,
- ✓ Data Act (EU) 2023/2854,
- ✓ Interoperable Europe Act (EU) 2024/903,
- ✓ Cybersecurity Act (EU) 2019/881,
- ✓ Establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre Regulation (EU) 2021/887,
- ✓ Network and Information Security Directive (EU) 2022/2555 (NIS 2),
- ✓ Proposal for an Information Security Regulation COM (2022) 119,
- ✓ Cybersecurity Regulation (EU) 2023/2841,
- ✓ Proposal for a Cyber Resilience Act COM (2022) 454,
- ✓ Proposal for a Cyber Solidarity Act COM (2023) 209 final,
- ✓ Proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Act COM/2021/206 final,
- ✓ Proposal for an AI Liability Directive COM (2022) 496,
- ✓ Digital Content Directive (EU) 2019/770,
- ✓ Digital Services Act (EU) 2022/2065,
- ✓ Digital Markets Act (EU) 2022/1925,
- ✓ P2B Regulation (EU) 2019/1150,
- ✓ Payment Services Directive 2 (PSD2) (EU) 2015/2366, and
- ✓ Crypto Assets Regulation (MiCA) (EU) 2023/1114.

The EU has recently introduced acts regarding the digital rights in the form of Regulation instead of Directive to ensure complete uniformity. To this end, the EU offers clarification regarding the uncertainties that arise in the implementation of these regulations, especially with the decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), and particularly tries to ensure the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals.