

Concept note: ENNHRI Co-Lab: Artificial Intelligence *An NHRI capacity building event on AI and human rights*

30 November – 1 December 2023, in person (*Ljubljana, Slovenia*)

Objectives

This event aims to be a space for peer exchange and learning among ENNHRI members that are interested in the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and human rights. It will be an opportunity to examine AI through the different thematic lenses that ENNHRI works on. The goals of this event are to:

- Strengthen NHRIs' capacity to work on AI and human rights through facilitating peer exchange, learning and joint work among ENNHRI members.
- Develop knowledge on the potential challenges and opportunities of the new roles NHRIs might have in relation to AI, including under the proposed European AI regulations (EU/CoE).
- Inspire and innovate on an emerging human rights topic, thereby encouraging further work and collaboration by and among ENNHRI members on AI.

Background

The [European Network of National Human Rights Institutions](#) (ENNHRI) brings together [over 40 National Human Rights Institutions](#) (NHRIs) across wider Europe. ENNHRI's goal is to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights and rule of law in the region, via a platform for collaboration and solidarity for NHRIs.

ENNHRI's [second strategic priority](#) is to support more effective promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law across the European region. One of the actions ENNHRI undertakes in this regard is to ensure that NHRIs' capacity to promote and protect human rights in Europe is strengthened, including on emerging human rights issues, such as artificial intelligence (AI).

The field of AI is evolving rapidly and its use will spread significantly in the coming decade. Further development of AI and new technology creates great opportunities but also poses potential risks for human rights, non-discrimination, rule of law and democracy. For instance, the

use of algorithms, automated decision-making, and other processes have led to concerns over access to justice, the right to remedy and to redress for victims of AI systems.

European NHRIs have identified AI and digital technologies as an emerging human rights issue that they will need to prepare and equip themselves to address in greater depth in the future. As a result, ENNHRI has identified AI as one of its priorities for 2022, 2023 and 2024, with a strong focus on NHRI capacity-building. ENNHRI's capacity building activities will build on the NHRI knowledge and good practices already gathered and shared by ENNHRI, most notably during the [NHRI Academy on AI](#), held in June 2022, and among the members of ENNHRI's new AI Working Group, and should inspire NHRIs with new ideas for activities in the area of AI in Europe. They will also build on the information gathered through the 2023 annual reporting on rule of law by ENNHRI members which considers the human rights, democracy and rule of law aspects of AI and member actions to address AI-related challenges.

Co-Lab: AI event

The centrepiece of these activities will be the ENNHRI Co-Lab: AI which will be held over two days in 2023 (30 Nov-1 Dec.). It will provide an opportunity for representatives from all ENNHRI members to meet in person to share and learn about AI and human rights across a range of thematic and functional areas. It will also be an important opportunity to build solidarity among the network, to consider joint work between members and/or ENNHRI Working Groups and to consider the opportunities and challenges for NHRIs presented by AI and new technologies.

The Co-Lab: AI capacity building event will bring together approximately 45 NHRI staff from across wider Europe.

