

**Launching the IGF 2024 Youth Track
International Capacity Development Workshop I hosted at EuroDIG
Vilnius, Lithuania and online
17 June 2024 at 14:30 UTC+3**

AI and Threats: New strategies to detect AI-generated political deepfakes

Summary

The [IGF 2024 youth track¹](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-youth-track) was officially launched at the 2024 annual meeting of the European Dialogues on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) and online. The co-organizers² structured the first workshop to introduce the track and explore the influence of AI-generated deepfakes on democracy. Specifically, the discussion focused on the strategies to enhance election integrity and build trust amidst the growing prevalence of political deepfakes.

The workshop featured several expert speakers, ensuring the representation of both youth and senior backgrounds:

- *Chengetai Masango, UN IGF Secretariat, Head of Office*
- *Emili Khachatryan, YOUthDIG 2024/Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth*
- *Everton Rodrigue, [CGI.br/Brazil](https://www.cgi.br/) IGF*
- *Meri Baghdasaryan, Senior Case and Policy Officer, Meta Oversight Board*
- *Thomas Aarheim, YOUthDIG 2024/UN Student Association of Norway*

As rapporteurs, *Phyo Thiri Lwin from Myanmar Youth IGF and Saba Tiku Beyene from Ethiopia Youth IGF* engaged. The session moderator was *Pilar Rodriguez from Youth IGF Spain and member of YOUthDIG Organizing Team*. The workshop was supported by online moderators, *Levy Syanseke from Zambia Youth IGF and Youth IGF Movement; and Mohammad Ali Jauhar as a member of Youth Standing Group*.

Through a vibrant interactive discussion, many young and senior stakeholders exchanged views on the impacts of deepfakes and existing practices to combat this effect. Over a hundred participants underlined the need for creating synergies between youth and senior stakeholders throughout the track and at the 19th IGF. Many recognized the need for robust policies and technological solutions to address the risks of deepfakes undermining electoral integrity and democratic discourse.

Below is the overall summary of the exchanges.

¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-youth-track>

² Youth IGF coordinators, youth-focused international initiatives and IGF Secretariat as listed on the IGF website <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-youth-track>

Key takeaways: *To combat deepfakes effectively, a variety of actions are necessary. These include mandatory content labelling, empowering youth to identify synthetic media, and enhancing digital literacy. It is essential to foster a trustworthy information environment through collaboration among multiple stakeholders. Technology-enabled approaches, coupled with educational initiatives, are crucial for equipping citizens—particularly young people—with the critical thinking skills needed to navigate the evolving digital landscape. Restoring trust in democracy requires a comprehensive strategy that addresses the complex and multifaceted nature of deepfake threats.*

- Empowering youth and promoting digital literacy across all generations is crucial. This involves equipping educators, parents, and youth themselves with the tools and confidence to engage in constructive conversations about online information sources and how to critically evaluate them.
- Technological solutions like content labelling can help users better understand when content is AI-generated versus human-created. However, these solutions need to be paired with broader efforts to promote digital agency and critical thinking.
- Cooperation across diverse stakeholders - including platforms, policymakers, civil society, and researchers - is essential to address this challenge from multiple angles and to account for regional differences in impacts.
- While technology may be rapidly evolving, the foundational solutions don't necessarily need to be cutting-edge. Focusing on building human-centred skills such as questioning sources, having open dialogues, and maintaining empathy can go a long way.
- Promoting more open and balanced discussions and debates around these complex issues, rather than relying solely on content moderation, is a valuable approach. Engaging a diversity of voices, including young people, and fostering real-world conversations in addition to online ones, can help build a more informed and critical public.
- The responsibility of platforms, content creators, and users in framing and discussing these topics is also an important consideration. Avoiding alarmism or oversimplification, and instead focusing on constructive dialogue, is vital to maintaining critical thinking and media literacy.
- A multi-pronged approach is needed - one that leverages technology, promotes education and awareness and nurtures human connection and discourse. This is a challenging but vital issue. Continued collaboration and creative problem-solving will be key as we navigate these evolving digital landscapes.

About IGF 2024 Youth Track

The IGF Youth Track is a capacity development initiative aimed at fostering collaboration and cooperation among and with youth on matters related to Internet governance. The IGF Secretariat develops this track through cooperation with Youth IGF initiatives and several other youth-focused international initiatives.

For the 2024 cycle, the track focuses on the governance of Artificial Intelligence. Through four globally scoped hybrid workshops delivered at regional IGFs, various issues will be unpacked, leading to the IGF 2024 Global Youth Summit hosted at the 19th annual IGF meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Subscribe to the Youth Track mailing list and learn more about it by visiting the [IGF website](#).

