



## PUBLIC CONFERENCE INVITATION

# Protecting young people from online harm in an open and safe public sphere

Join the European Audiovisual Observatory live in Oslo for our  
2026 Norwegian Presidency Conference in collaboration with the  
Norwegian Media Authority

Wednesday 10 June 2026, 14.00 – 17.30

14.00 - 15.00: networking reception

15.00 - 17.30: conference

Norwegian Film Institute (NFI)  
Dronningens Gate 16, 0152 Oslo

[Free registration click here](#)



The European Audiovisual Observatory invites you to join us in Oslo for this conference organised in collaboration with the Norwegian Media Authority as part of our Norwegian Presidency for 2026. You're invited to attend this timely and thought-provoking public conference on "[Protecting young people from online harm in an open and safe public sphere.](#)"

Children and young people are increasingly exposed to a wide range of online harms, including harmful content, disinformation, cyberbullying, addictive design features, and exposure to polarised or manipulative environments, such as echo chambers. At the same time, digital platforms remain essential spaces for learning, culture, democratic participation and freedom of expression. Balancing protection from harm with the safeguarding of fundamental rights is therefore a central policy challenge.

At European level, a robust legal framework is already in place, including the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, the Digital Services Act and the AI Act, alongside consumer protection rules. However, the main challenge now lies in their effective implementation. Across Europe and beyond, several countries are exploring additional measures, including banning the access to social media for children under a certain age in an attempt to protect them from online harms.

Against this backdrop, the conference will explore key questions: What type of online harms are we dealing with in an ever-changing online landscape? What can regulation and self regulation of online platforms really achieve? Which strategies carry the greatest promise of efficient protection? We're bringing together policymakers, regulators and media experts, to tackle the most pressing questions concerning today's digital environment.

From the AVMS Directive to the Digital Services Act, we'll explore what works in practice—and where the challenges lie. How can regulation be effectively enforced? How do we increase transparency and accountability online? From recommender systems to age verification, we'll examine tools that can make the digital space safer and more trustworthy. How can we empower young people and those around them? Focusing on media literacy, user control, and inclusive participation, we'll discuss how to equip minors, families and educators to navigate the online world with confidence.

Through expert presentations and dynamic panel discussions, the conference will explore how to balance protection with fundamental rights—ensuring a digital public sphere that is both safe and open.

Who should attend?

This conference is designed for professionals and stakeholders working at the intersection of media, regulation and child protection, including:

- Policymakers and government officials
- Regulatory authorities and enforcement bodies
- Representatives from digital platforms and media organisations
- Public and commercial media services
- Civil society organisations and child protection advocates
- Researchers and academics in media, law and digital policy
- Educators and media literacy practitioners

We look forward to welcoming you in Oslo!

Kind regards

Maja Cappello  
Acting Executive Director  
European Audiovisual Observatory

Mari Velsand  
Director General  
Norwegian Media Authority and President of the  
European Audiovisual Observatory

## Who are we?

We are part of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The European Audiovisual Observatory provides data and analysis on the cinema, television and VOD industries in Europe, from an economic and legal point of view. This conference is organised within the framework of the Norwegian Presidency of the Observatory for 2026, represented by the Norwegian Media Authority and the Norwegian Film Institute.

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