Network Strategy
2025 → 2030

EDRi

European Digital Rights
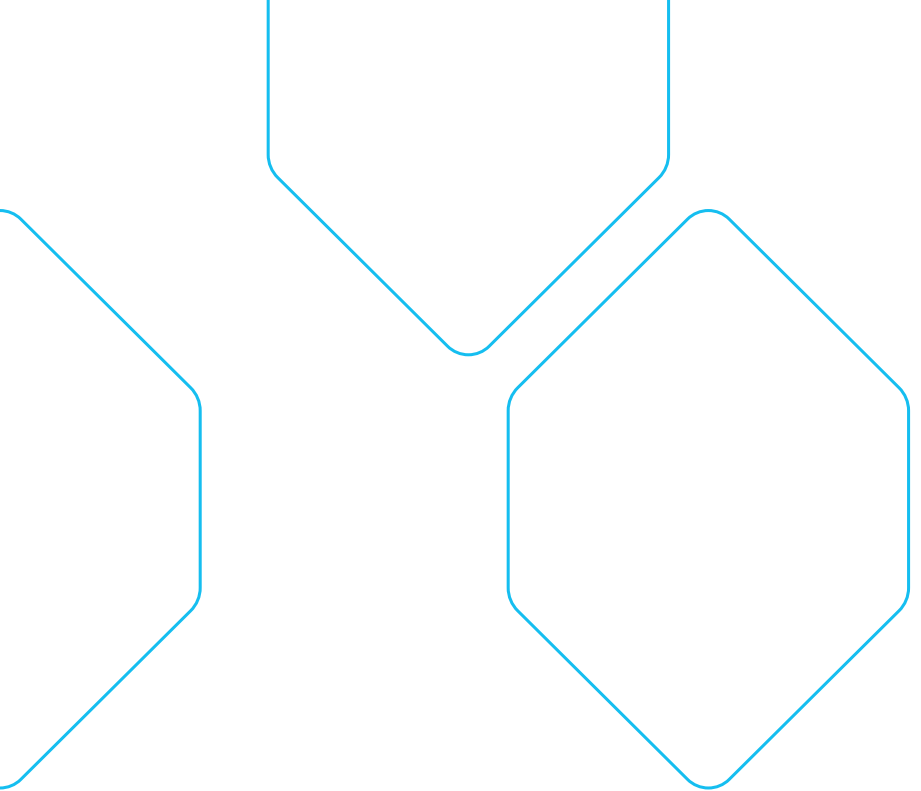
With more than two decades of advocacy experience, EDRi is the go-to, non-governmental network working on EU and national laws and policies on privacy, freedom of expression, participation online, data protection and technology policy. We unite over 50 organisation from across Europe and beyond

Vision

We envision a world in which digital **technology serves humanity, democracy and the planet,** in which people live with respect for their **dignity and autonomy**; a world in which technology is just, safe, open, sustainable and inclusive; a world where our digital environment is compatible with the rights and well-being of everyone.

In the future, we want to see digital technologies and systems that:

→ empower people to flourish and thrive online and offline;
→ facilitate just and accountable decision-making;
→ prioritise safety, participation and community care;
→ work towards environmental and climate justice;
→ guarantee the right to non-discrimination and support justice and decolonial principles;
→ are by, for and of the people.

Mission

EDRi's mission is **to promote, protect and uphold civil and human rights in the digital age.**

To address the challenges of our time, we need the internet, AI and technology to centre our joint public interest. At this critical moment, EDRi constitutes a vibrant independent and critical civil society network in Europe. We continue demanding a commitment by decision-makers—especially EU and European decision-makers—to public accountability when regulating technologies and their social, economic and environmental applications and consequences.

Values

We recognise that digital rights do not exist in a vacuum. **Confronting nexuses of power and challenging systemic inequalities, through an intersectional lens** that considers the overlapping impacts of different forms of discrimination, are essential components to protecting digital rights at EDRi. For people to live in dignity in the digital age, other conditions must also be in place, such as democracy, transparency, participatory decision-making, equity, peace and justice.

We are united in our joint mission and actively oppose technologies that have negative impacts on people, society and the environment. We collectively **stand against racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and all discriminatory, oppressive and exploitative structures,** particularly when technology amplifies, legitimises, or reinforces these. EDRi's strength comes from working together as a network of organisations across Europe, acknowledging our diversity and different lived experiences and with a common desire to imagine and work towards a better, freer and fairer world.

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01. Areas of work

1. Privacy and surveillance:

→ Data protection
→ Data retention
→ Mass surveillance, biometrics and discriminatory profiling
→ Law enforcement surveillance (incl. Europol)
→ Surveillance of people on the move
→ Encryption, privacy and confidentiality of communications
→ Cybersecurity
→ Spyware
→ Defence technology

2. Information democracy and participation:

→ Online safety
→ Digitalisation of public and essential services
→ Digital ID and age verification
→ Freedom of expression and access to information online
→ AI governance
→ Protest (free assembly and association) in the digital age
→ Disinformation and interference in electoral campaigns
→ Digital rights in trade agreements

3. Just and open internet and technologies:

→ Commercial surveillance and surveillance advertising
→ Net neutrality
→ Free and open source alternatives to dominant online services, hardware and software
→ Digital sovereignty, open tech and public infrastructures
→ The human and environmental impact of technology
→ Techno-solutionism, market dominance and infrastructural power
→ Tech-facilitated harms against marginalised and minoritised communities

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02. Strategic objectives

Recognising that these five objectives do not exist in isolation, but are inter-dependent and will be pursued to different degrees at different times and by different parts of the network, EDRi will:

1.
Resist surveillance and control agendas, narratives and initiatives to build a caring and rights-protective conception of safety (work area pillar 1: privacy and data protection)

2.
Strengthen the conditions for democratic accountability, expression and participation (work area pillar 2: information democracy and participation)

5.
Contribute to systemic change for safe and just spaces in Europe and beyond

3.
Counter the digital giants' dominance and grip on our economy, infrastructure and planet, and promote public interest alternatives to truly empower people (work area pillar 3: just and open internet and technologies)

4.
Cultivate a resilient and vibrant network to boost collective potential and enhance civil society solidarity

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03. How do we see change happening?

We take an approach that specifically addresses European decision-makers and leverages change at EU and regional level, as this reflects our expertise and added value. We advocate for the protection of people, rights and justice to be embedded in laws, policies, institutions, legal systems and enforcement and oversight authorities based on democracy and the rule of law. At the same time, we see the limits of these systems to achieve meaningful change, their fallibility, and how they often reproduce harm.

When designing our interventions, we aim to think about what should be changed, why, and what could be unintended consequences. We aim to think that political and legal interventions should not just address the technologies but also the problematic systems of which they are part. The way we understand change means that we also reflect on our role, power and interventions in the broader ecosystem, assess and evaluate them and challenge our own role. Therefore, decolonial principles are among the multiple perspectives we employ to understand challenges posed to digital rights and how to address them.

To reflect on the complexity and emergence of the issues we face, some parts of the network take inspiration from the 'living systems' approach. This framework helps us map relationships in our systems, and seek to put them in interdependence with natural systems.

There is no single best way to seek change and - based on our mapping of power and the systems we deal with - as well as our strength and consultation of stakeholders, we identify the following methods of change as EDRi.

Advocacy

Mobilisation

Coalitions

Awareness-raising

Enforcement

Narrative

Research

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Press enquiries
press@edri.org

Brussels office
brussels@edri.org

Phone number
+32 2 274 25 70

Visit us

Rue Belliard 12
1040 Brussels
Belgium

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