

ZeMKI, Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research at the University of Bremen in partnership with the University of Padova, Dublin City University, the University of Salerno, Tallinn University, the University of Groningen, the University of Klagenfurt, the University of Helsinki and YUFE

organize a
Blended Intensive Program

titled

Digital Constitutionalism and the UN Global Digital Compact

Outline

This Blended Intensive Program (BIP) is organized by the [Digital Constitutionalism Network](#) (DCN) and offers students from different European universities an opportunity to come together, both virtually and in person, to discuss issues pertaining to digital developments and related global policy development processes. The BIP is part of a teaching partnership that the DCN has promoted since 2019. The 2024 BIP follows upon a successful BIP organized at the University of Padova in 2023. The BIP continues to engage participants in a transdisciplinary way, with a focus on theories and methods from legal studies, media and communication, and political science.

The 2024 BIP is dedicated to exploring the intersections between *Digital Constitutionalism and the UN Global Digital Compact*. It aims at providing students with the theoretical, analytical and methodological tools to make sense of the values and principles that (should) guide regulatory arrangements for the digital age, including those proposed in the consultation process for the UN's Global Digital Compact due to be agreed at the September 2024 Summit of the Future.

The 2024 BIP includes two components - one online and one offline - during which students will explore a range of issues related to digital constitutionalism and the UN Global Digital Compact. The program will also provide participants transversal skills, including: public speaking, group work, intercultural competences and the know-how needed for effective interventions in digital governance such as policy brief writing skills.

The common policy-oriented research project, on which students will work on in small teams, focuses on research tasks related to the Global Digital Compact, specifically the influences that went into its (ongoing) formulation between UN member states. Here, the consultation process allows for a multi-method inquiry of a highly current topic that concerns scholars, policymakers, activists and citizens the world over. In addition to publicly available materials from the consultations, students could also conduct interviews. Students will also make use of the DCN database of 321 digital bills of rights published over the past thirty years, in order to better understand the path toward the UN Global Digital Compact.

Basic information

- Interdisciplinary approach, with a focus on law, political and communication sciences
- Up to 25 students in mobility from seven core partners: University of Padova, University of Salerno, Dublin City University, University of Groningen, Tallinn University, University of Klagenfurt and University of Helsinki

- Open call for up to 5 students from YUFE universities
- Up to 10 Students from the University of Bremen
- 6 ECTS credits recognized for the activity; students receive a certificate of participation
- MA-level at host institution (incoming BA students welcomed)
- Virtual component: 8 hours, 4 hours each before and after mobility
- In-person component: 30 hours, Bremen, 22-26 April 2024

Learning Objectives

- Gain knowledge about **scholarly discourses** concerning the rights-based governance of digital technologies, specifically the Internet and artificial intelligence
- Understand **digital constitutionalism** as an interdisciplinary concept that relates to advocacy and rulemaking within Internet and digital governance
- Understand the context and the debates around the **UN Global Digital Compact (GDC)**
- Practice to **think critically** about the effectiveness of digital constitutionalism for the realization of social goods and the protection of human rights in the context of the GDC
- Gain **research and writing experience** at the nexus of human rights and the digital
- Learn in a **transnational** European context, and practice to use **blended learning** formats for your own learning process
- Gain **transversal skills**, including public speaking and group work skills, intercultural competences and the know-how needed for effective interventions in digital governance such as policy brief writing skills.

Assessment

The assessment of the BIP consists of the final group presentation in Bremen (26 April) and a jointly written, research-based policy brief to be handed in on 24 May (draft policy briefs due on 17 May).

Organizing Committee

- Dennis Redeker (University of Bremen)
- Claudia Padovani (University of Padova)
- Andrea Pettrachin (University of Padova)
- Edoardo Celeste (Dublin City University)
- Mauro Santaniello (University of Salerno)
- Marianne Franklin (University of Groningen)
- Tomoe Watashiba (Tallinn University)
- Krisztina Rozgonyi (University of Klagenfurt)
- Outi Puuko (University of Helsinki)
- Mariëlle Wijermars (Maastricht University)
- Clara Iglesias Keller (WZB and Weizenbaum)

Virtual component

Three virtual sessions will be held ahead of the in-person component to introduce the structure and logistics of the BIP and to initiate participants to digital constitutionalism. Three additional virtual sessions will be held after the in-person component of the BIP, in order to elaborate the insights gained in Bremen and to foster dissemination of these refined results to the general public and policy-makers, including at the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG).

Date	Description	Coordinator(s)
25 March 2024 14:00-16:00 CET	Introductory Session Getting to know each other; Introduction to the DCN; Introduction to the topics; Introduction to the BIP's schedule; Logistics of Erasmus+ mobility	Dennis Redeker and Claudia Padovani
16 April 2024 10:00-12:00 CET	Introduction to Digital Constitutionalism	Edoardo Celeste, Mauro Santaniello and Tomoe Watashiba
21 May 2024 10:00-12:00 CT	Update from the student research teams; Feedback on the research reports by instructors	Dennis Redeker
13 June 2024 11:00-12:00 CET	Preparations for the effective participation of students at EuroDIG and for the dissemination of policy briefs	Dennis Redeker
17-19 June 2024	Participation in EuroDIG sessions on the GDC (this is hybrid with some instructors attending in-person)	Dennis Redeker
20 June 2024 11:00-12:00 CET	Reporting back and reflection on participation in the EuroDIG conference; evaluation	Dennis Redeker

In-person component

The in-person intensive program – organized at the University of Bremen on 22-26 April 2024 – comprises lectures, meetings with experts, general discussions and group activities focused on learning how to understand the path toward and the making of the UN Global Digital Compact against the background of an ideology (or movement) of digital constitutionalism.

Date	Description	Location(s)
Monday, 22 April, starts at 14:00 (4h)	12:00-13:00 Lunch on campus (optional, self-paid) 14:00-15:00 Introduction (Dennis Redeker) 15:00-17:00 Group sessions to develop research questions concerning the GDC, with break 17:00-18:00 Plenary (feeding back from group work) From 19:00 Welcome dinner	Bremen Cotton Exchange Lunch: Main University Mensa Dinner: Bremer Ratskeller
Tuesday, 23 April (7h)	9:00-10:00 Background on Internet governance and the UN Global Digital Compact (Marianne Franklin)	Bremen Cotton Exchange

	<p>10:00-11:00 The GDC consultations and negotiations (Tomoe Watashiba & Dennis Redeker)</p> <p>11:00-12:00 Gender perspectives on the GDC (Claudia Padovani)</p> <p>12:00-13:00 Lunch</p> <p>13:00-14:00 The GDC and digital sovereignty (Mauro Santaniello)</p> <p>14:00-15:00 Public opinion and the GDC (Dennis Redeker)</p> <p>15:00-16:30 Guided Tour of City Hall (UNESCO world heritage site)</p> <p>16:30-17:30 The GDC as a Digital Bill of Rights (Edoardo Celeste)</p> <p>17:30-18:30 Group session: Reflection on the inputs</p>	
Wednesday, 24 April (7h)	<p>9:00-10:00 Introduction to the DCN dataset (Dennis Redeker)</p> <p>10:00-11:00 Introduction to policy briefs (Andrea Pettrachin)</p> <p>11:00-13:00 Group session (research for policy briefs)</p> <p>13:00-14:00 Lunch</p> <p>14:00-14:30 Instructors meet with student groups</p> <p>14:30-17:00 Group session (research for policy briefs)</p>	Bremen Cotton Exchange
Thursday, 25 April (7h)	<p>9:00-12:30 Group session (research for policy briefs)</p> <p>12:30-13:30 Lunch</p> <p>13:30-14:00 Instructors meet with student groups</p> <p>14:00-16:00 Group session (writing the policy brief drafts)</p> <p>17:00-19:00 Public event on the Global Digital Compact co-sponsored by EU Horizon Europe project REMIT (under grant agreement No 101094228), confirmed speakers: Olga Kyryliuk, Minda Moreira, Marianne Franklin (moderator: Dennis Redeker)</p> <p>19:30 Farewell Dinner</p>	Bremen Cotton Exchange Evening location: Haus der Wissenschaft Dinner: Don Carlos
Friday, 26 April, ends at 14:00 (5h)	<p>9:00-11:00 Presentations of status quo by research teams</p> <p>11:00-13:00 Outlook remaining BIP program and EuroDIG, opportunities on how to get involved in digital governance</p> <p>13:00-14:00 Feedback and reflections</p> <p>Lunch (optional, self-paid)</p>	Bremen Cotton Exchange

Current as of 21 May 2024