

ITRE Preparation Module

MEP BSR Copenhagen 2024

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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

The Question of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Young People's Behaviour in Cyberspace

Dear delegates of the Committee on Industry, Research,

We, as your committee presidents, are honoured to guide you on a critical exploration of a topic that transcends borders and generations: The question of artificial intelligence and young people's behaviour in Cyberspace. The digital landscape, an undeniable cornerstone of our modern world, is in a state of constant flux, fundamentally reshaping how young people interact with and navigate this online sphere. Artificial intelligence promises to significantly impact virtual spaces. This confluence presents a multifaceted issue demanding our collective attention. Let us, therefore, delve into the intricate dynamics of this question over the next few days. Through rigorous discourse, we will dissect the integration of AI and its influence on young people's online engagement, illuminating both the potential benefits and the challenges it presents. I strongly urge you to meticulously examine the preparatory materials beforehand. This will enable you to actively participate in the stimulating discussions and debates that awaits us. Through a collaborative exchange of ideas, we can strive to forge a path towards a responsible cyberspace-environment. This environment should not only foster ethical AI use but also empower young people to become not just informed participants, but true architects of a thriving online future.

Committee Presidents of the ITRE committee,

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Introduction of the topic

Young people are digitally fluent, inhabiting cyberspace with a level of comfort often unseen in older generations. This online world is a space for connection, entertainment, and exploration. While cyberspace fosters social connection and access to information, it can also lead to issues like problematic social media use, the development of digital identities that differ from their offline selves, and exposure to online communities that promote negativity or extremism.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming cyberspace, creating new opportunities and challenges for young people. This module explores the potential impacts of AI on young people's online behaviour, focusing on areas relevant to the ITRE committee.

Key areas of discussion

- **Content moderation and AI:** How are AI algorithms shaping the content young people see online?
- **Algorithmic bias and echo chambers:** How might AI reinforce biases and limit young people's exposure to diverse viewpoints?
- **AI-powered addiction and manipulation:** What are the potential risks of AI-driven personalised content and engagement strategies that could be addictive or manipulative?
- **The role of AI in promoting online safety and well-being:** Can AI be used to tackle cyberbullying, hate speech, and other online safety concerns for young people?
- **The impact of AI on young people's digital literacy and critical thinking:** How can AI education empower young people to navigate the online world critically and responsibly?



Studies and articles

- **Predictive Policing and Artificial Intelligence**

This book looks at AI in policing, especially how it predicts crime. It explores both the pros (reduced crime, efficient police work) and cons (bias, cost, rights concerns) of using AI.

<https://api.taylorfrancis.com/content/books/mono/download?identifierName=doi&identifierValue=10.4324/9780429265365&type=googlepdf>

- **The Algorithmic Society: Social Order in the Age of Automation**

This book by Shoshana Zuboff examines the societal implications of AI, including potential manipulation and bias in algorithms.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Marc-Schuilenburg/publication/347062960_The_algorithmic_society/links/6006effda6fdccdc864a2c1/The-algorithmic-society.pdf?tp=eyJjb250ZXh0Ijp7ImZpcnN0UGFnZSI6InB1YmxpY2F0aW9uIiwicGFnZSI6InB1YmxpY2F0aW9uIn19

- **A report by UNICEF titled "The State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World"**

This report explores the opportunities and risks of digital technologies for young people.

https://issuu.com/unicefpublicationsnewyork/docs/sowc_2017_eng_web

- **The Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University**

publishes research on a variety of topics related to AI and society, including potential impacts on young people

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3557518

- **The European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) addresses issues related to**

AI and digital transformation, including potential impacts on youth

https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/departments-and-executive-agencies/communications-networks-content-and-technology_en

- **Shaping Europe's digital future**

This digital connectivity package aims to start a discussion on concrete proposals with stakeholders, Member States and like-minded partners on how to shape future EU policy.

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en>

- **Experiencing Algorithms: How Young People Understand, Feel About, and Engage with Algorithmic News Selection on Social Media**



This is an article about how young people understand algorithmic news selection on social media

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/20563051211008828>

Preparational work questions

- How can the ITRE committee ensure that AI development promotes a safe and positive online environment for young people?
- What role can AI play in promoting digital literacy and critical thinking skills among young people?
- Should there be regulations on how AI is used to personalise content for young people?
- To what extent should multinational corporations be held accountable for the societal and individual impacts of the algorithms they design and implement?
- What is the balance between the current practices of social media platforms collecting and utilising user-data, and the potential need for limitations on this practice to safeguard individual privacy?
- Should artificial intelligence be integrated into the judicial system? What safeguards and ethical considerations must be established to ensure fairness and due process?

As your Committee Presidents, we look forward to creating a fruitful resolution in the ITRE Committee. We are very excited to work with you all, and we hope that you will all contribute to the committee sessions in an effective and open-minded way, with the goal of creating prosperous resolutions and strong relations to your co-delegates. This module provides a starting point for your research and discussion within the ITRE committee. By actively engaging with the topic and exploring the resources provided, you can contribute to a productive conversation about the future of AI and its impact on young people in cyberspace.

Best regards,

Bianca Sinivee (EE) and Tristan Garde Abildgaard (DK)