



# COMMUNICATION RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL DISRUPTION (CORDI)



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The CoRD i project aims at developing a rights-based approach to communication conceptually and in terms of its practical, legal and regulatory implications.

The “digital disruption” of media and society has fundamentally changed citizens’ opportunities to access information and participate in public debates and democracy. The role of digital platforms in the exploitation of personal data, spread of disinformation, and other “disorders” of the public sphere have raised fears about the future of democracy, free expression and our fundamental rights to privacy, dignity and non-discrimination. The project clarifies conceptually the debate on communication rights, maps different actors’ understanding of the current situation, and produces concrete policy solutions and suggestions that can be implemented in legal and administrative regulation of the new digital media environment.

The project is structured around three research packages. **The first research package** analyses the different conceptions that underlie current regulatory debates on issues ranging from the accountability of social media platforms to national media policies. It clarifies the different uses of the concepts of freedom of expression and communication rights and analyses the normative implications of these varying uses. It will utilise methods from policy analysis and comparative constitutional law, including analyses of court cases, laws and policy documents, as well as interviews with authorities and legal experts responsible for legislation and regulatory practices.

*Black belt drawing by Dan Perjovschi / Freedom of expression*  
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**The second research package** analyses challenges caused by digital disruption from the perspective of legacy media. It will interview journalists and members of the Council for Mass Media on journalists’ self-perceptions, practices and ethical considerations. It will also study how public service broadcasting has responded to these challenges and how technological innovations, such as news automation and artificial intelligence, entail challenges regarding algorithmic transparency, accountability and media ethics.

**The third research package** is about challenges of social media and “fake” or “counter-” media. Social media platforms are mostly owned by international companies, such as Facebook, Google, and YouTube, while “fake”/“counter-” media sites are run by diverse actors often motivated by nationalist or populist aims. This work package will study self-regulatory practices of these sites, as well as their users’ and administrators’ views on communication rights and regulatory policies.



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