Online Working Groups

VSP & Regulators
Highlights & main outcomes

Ľuboš Kukliš
EPRA Chairperson
EPRA Antalya, 14 October 2022

Aim:

- Facilitate **practical discussions** between EPRA members on implementation of regulation (and co-regulation) of VSPs

- Invite **selected academics** to enrich discussions and for an interplay with theory and practice

- **Learn from each other** and explore concrete problems

👉 ***Deliverable**: Detailed summary of sessions + presentations*

Format:

- A series of **informal workshops** every 4-5 months

- Brief **online sessions** (120 minutes max)

- Presentation by **experts** on key topics

- **Open discussion** with EPRA members

The VSP & Regulation Workshops today:

- Inaugural launch: <u>21 October 2021</u>

- Open group for EPRA members <u>(≠ EMIL & AI group)</u>

- 3 Workshops so far

Topics addressed:

➢ *Protection of minors: 16 March (age assurance & age verification)*

- Update on national developments on <u>age assurance and age verification systems</u> (Ofcom-UK, Arcom-FR, LfM-DE) and on <u>age rating systems</u> (KAVI-FI, CvdM-NL).

- <u>euCONSENT consortium</u> (aim at designing an open, secure and certified age verification and parental consent system) *by Sonia Livingstone (LSE)* and a focus on <u>data protection and children's rights</u> *by Eva Lievens (Ghent University)*

➢ *Challenges and highlights:*

- AI tools may help provide more robust age verification systems

- Implementation obstacles:

- No official notification or unclear jurisdiction over VSPs

- The lack of level-playing field and harmonisation put forward as an excuse by adult VSPs for not complying

Key messages:

➢ **More cooperation** between NRAs *(implementation support, jurisdiction over adult services)*

➢ Technical measures must **empower children** and reflect the reality of **family life**

➢ All measures shall respect **children's rights and privacy**

➢ Policy-making and implementation should **involve children**

Topics addressed:

➢ *Hate speech: a systemic approach: 29 June*

- ▪ <u>The Carnegie Project:</u> a public policy proposal to improve the safety of internet services' users via a systemic and safety-by-design approach, *by Lorna Woods (University of Essex) and William Perrin (Carnegie UK)*

➢ *Challenges & highlights:*

- ▪ The need of a **shift of mindset** from an ex-post content regulation to an ex-ante safety-by-design approach
- ▪ The issue of **harmful but non-criminal content**
- ▪ **Political involvement** and government interference

Key messages:

➢ A **victim-focused approach** is important, with all categories of victims

➢ Such a systemic approach **can be used for other types of content** (*gender violence…*)

➢ A **regular assessment and monitoring** of the system is needed

➢ **Remedies and answers** to hate speech must be proportional

The VSP & Regulation Workshops tomorrow:

- *Next Workshop: 9 November 2022*

Focus: Emerging practices on appropriate mechanisms (TBC)

Focus 1

➢ **MAVISE Facts: Identifying & registering VSPs - what challenges?**

Laura Ene, EAO

Focus 2:

VSP regulation

➢ **Toolbox: NRAs information collection powers**