Full-Time Studies   Semester 1, 2
WINTER SCHOOL

Module 3 European Studies through Digital European Law

Practical workshop No. 6

Topic 6: Protecting Digital Rights and Online Freedoms in the EU

Part 1: Legal Frameworks and Policies Safeguarding Digital Rights

1. **Fundamental Digital Rights in the EU**
   o The right to privacy, data protection, and freedom of expression under the **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights**.
   o The role of the **European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)** in protecting digital freedoms.
2. **Key EU Regulations Ensuring Digital Rights**
   o **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**: Protecting personal data and privacy.
   o **Digital Services Act (DSA)**: Ensuring transparency and accountability for online platforms.
   o **AI Act**: Regulating artificial intelligence to prevent discrimination and bias.
3. **Cybersecurity and Protection Against Online Threats**
   o **Network and Information Security Directive (NIS2)**: Strengthening cybersecurity across member states.
   o EU efforts to combat **cybercrime, disinformation, and digital surveillance**.
4. **Challenges in Enforcing Digital Rights Across the EU**
   o Balancing security measures with privacy rights (e.g., encryption vs. anti-terror laws).
   o National differences in implementing EU-wide digital rights policies.

Part 2: Practical Implications and Future Trends in Digital Rights Protection

1. **Case Studies of Digital Rights Violations and Legal Responses**
   o **Schrems I & II cases**: The impact of EU-U.S. data transfer disputes on digital rights.
   o **Google Spain Case (Right to be Forgotten)**: Balancing privacy and public access to information.
2. **The Role of Digital Advocacy in Defending Online Freedoms**
   o NGOs and grassroots movements advocating for internet freedom (e.g., **Access Now, EDRi**).
   o How citizen activism influences digital policy debates.
3. **Emerging Technologies and Their Impact on Digital Rights**
   o The ethical concerns of AI, facial recognition, and predictive analytics.
   o The role of **blockchain in data privacy and secure identity management**.
4. **The Future of Digital Rights in the EU**
   o Proposed reforms to **GDPR, DSA, and cybersecurity regulations**.
   o Strengthening global cooperation on digital human rights.
   o The impact of **Web 3.0, the Metaverse, and decentralized digital environments**.