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## DigiRights Project Final Conference

The Digitalisation of Defence Rights: Time for New Perspectives... And Directives?

**30–31 January 2025**

**KU Leuven, Belgium**

The **KU Leuven—Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC)**, together with Tartu Ülikool, Università degli Studi di Genova, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Université du Luxembourg, Sveučilišta u Zagrebu) and Magyar Helsinki Bizottság are pleased to invite you to join the **DigiRights Conference**.

The Conference represents the concluding event of the **DigiRights Project**, an Action Grant funded by the **Justice Programme (JUST) of the European Union** and will offer a platform for the partners of the DigiRights Project to present their project findings, as well as provide the opportunity for engagement with other scholars and stakeholders in discussions and exchanges on the concept and question of “digital defence rights”.

### About the DigiRights Project

Focussing on the procedural rights which are susceptible to digitalisation—namely the rights to interpretation, translation, access to the case file, legal assistance and legal aid, and to be present at trial—the DigiRights project maps and assesses the existing practices of digitalisation of these rights with a view to proposing a set of European guidelines for their digital application.

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## Conference Programme

**Thursday, 30 January 2025**

**9.00–9.30: Registration + Coffee**

**9.30–10.00: Welcome + Introduction**

**Michele Panzavolta**

*Professor, KU Leuven and Primary Investigator (PI), DigiRights Project*

**10.00–11.30: PANEL 1**

Findings of the DigiRights Project: (supra)national reflections on the safeguarding of defence rights in digital proceedings—perspectives from Belgium, Hungary, Italy and Estonia

**Moderator:** *Anna Mosna (University of Leiden/KU Leuven)*

- **Michele Panzavolta, Ashlee Beazley, Rani Van de Gaer**  
*KU Leuven*  
Belgium
- **Lili Krámer and András Kádár**  
*Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Magyar Helsinki Bizottság)*  
Hungary
- **Mitja Gialuz, Michela Miraglia, Jacopo Della Torre and Alessandro Malacarne**  
*University of Genova (Università degli Studi di Genova)*  
Italy
- **Jaan Ginter**  
*Tartu University (Tartu Ülikool)*

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Estonia

### 11.30–12.00: Coffee break

### 12.00–13.15: PANEL 2

Findings of the DigiRights Project: (supra)national reflections on the safeguarding of defence rights in digital proceedings—Croatian, German and European perspectives

**Moderator:** *Mitja Gialuz (University of Genova)*

- **Elizabeta Ivičević Karas, Zoran Burić and Marin Bonačić**  
*University of Zagreb (Sveučilišta u Zagrebu)*  
Croatia
- **Peter Rackow and Lena Ertle**  
*University of Göttingen (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)*  
Germany
- **Silvia Allegrezza and Lorenzo Bernardini**  
*University of Luxembourg (Université du Luxembourg)*  
DigiRights European study

### 13.15–14.30: Lunch

### 14.30–15.30: PANEL 3

A transversal perspective: The DigiRights Project proposals and recommendations

- **Ashlee Beazley** (*KU Leuven*)
- **Anna Mosna** (*Leiden University/KU Leuven*)

(On behalf of the DigiRights Project Team.)

### 15.30–16.00: Coffee break





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## 16.00–18.00: PANEL 4

### Digitalisation of the right to be present

**Moderator:** *Silvia Allegrezza (University of Luxembourg)*

- **Adrienn Laczó**  
*Judge and Head of Chamber, Budapest Metropolitan Court, Hungary*  
Ensuring presence and access to protection
- **Ivan Crnčec**  
*State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Public Administration and Digital Transformation, Croatia*  
Digitalization of the criminal procedure: Croatian experiences and perspectives
- **Lora Briški**  
*University of Ljubljana*  
Remote criminal proceedings in Slovenia: balancing efficiency with the right to presence and effective participation
- **Chara Chioni-Chotouman**  
*University of Thessaloniki*  
Justice at a distance: online participation and the right to be present
- **Emilia Wehlitz**  
*University of Göttingen*  
ECJ's standard for remote participation: is this acceptable?

## 19.30: Conference Dinner

*(For speakers and invited guests.)*

Faculty Club, Groot Begijnhof 14, 3000 Leuven





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Friday, 31 January 2025

8.30–9.00: Coffee

9.00–11.00: PANEL 5

Perspectives on the right to legal assistance and legal aid

**Moderator:** Michele Panzavolta (*KU Leuven*)

- **Dimitrios Giannouloupoulos**  
*Goldsmiths University, London*  
Digital custodial interrogation rights: how to adjust the police station environment to 21st century practice
- **Lore Mergaerts**  
*KU Leuven*  
The impact of digitalization and remote justice on the (assessment of) statements provided by suspects, accused persons, victims and witnesses
- **Michalina Marcia**  
*University of Wrocław,*  
Safeguarding the right to legal assistance in digital proceedings for individuals deprived of liberty
- **James Thornton**  
*Nottingham Trent University*  
Limitations on digital rights to legal assistance and legal aid in England & Wales
- **Maciej Fingas**  
*University of Gdańsk*  
Effective assistance of a defence attorney during remote proceedings





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## 11.00–11.30: Coffee

## 11.30–13.30: PANEL 6

### Individual rights in a digitalised justice

**Moderator:** *Elizabeta Ivičević Karas (University of Zagreb)*

- **Katalin Balogh**  
*KU Leuven*  
'He is not able to translate': The role and position of a legal interpreter during a process via videoconference
- **Kamil Sobański**  
*University of Wrocław,*  
Toward the Digitalization of the Right to Interpretation: Lessons from the International Criminal Court
- **Kathrin Höber**  
*Senior Public Prosecutor, Germany*  
The introduction of the e-file in Saxony
- **Peter Coussement**  
*Magistrate Adviser (ICT), Belgian Ministry for Justice*  
The introduction of a digital judicial file in Belgium from a technical and legal perspective
- **Olivia Rope**  
*Penal Reform International*  
Online hearings and child rights: preliminary results from a European study

## 13.30–14.15: Lunch





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## 14.15–14.30: PRESENTATION

### Virtual Criminal Justice Network

Brief introduction to the Virtual Criminal Justice Network by:

- **Dorris de Vocht** (Associate Professor, Tilburg University); and
- **Christina Peristeridou** (Assistant Professor, Maastricht University)

## 14.30–15.45: PANEL 7

### Digitalisation and judicial cooperation

**Moderator:** *Carsten Momsen (Freie Universität Berlin)*

- **Sharon Okunrobo Perez**  
*European Institute of Public Administration*  
Proliferation of e-evidence: a strong call for reliability standards
- **Bedirhan Erdem**  
*Berlin Humboldt University*  
Digitalisation in Turkish criminal procedure as an obstacle to extradition from the EU to Turkey: a case study on the decision of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany (2 BvR 1368/23).
- **Anna Mosna**  
*Leiden University/KU Leuven*  
The EIO and videoconferencing: a new way to ensure participation at trial?

## 15.45–16.00: Concluding Remarks

**Michele Panzavolta**

*Professor, KU Leuven*

