ITUAcademy
Empowering minds

Registration information

Emerging technologies and human rights online

Organized by:

Funded by

Global Gateway

Funded by the European Union

UNU MERIT

Training details

Modality: Online instructor led
Dates: *05 Jun 2026 - 16 Jul 2026*
Training fees: $0.00
Language: English
Application deadline: 17 May 2026

Training code: 26OI500453MUL-E-D
Contact: cdo@merit.unu.edu

Training description

Rapid development of digital technologies provides new opportunities for public policy. Technologies such as artificial intelligence, e-government platforms, big data or geospatial analysis tools hold immense potential to facilitate decision-making and provision of public services, enable citizen participation, prevent threats to public security and the rule of law, and advance human rights. At the same time, digital technologies may infringe on privacy, exacerbate discrimination, and reinforce inequalities. How can the positive transformative effect of emerging digital technologies be unlocked without compromising human rights?

This introductory course equips the participants with the essential knowledge of the opportunities and the risks that new digital technologies present to human rights and approaches to addressing them. The course consists of four modules. The opening module first introduces the concept of human rights and its foundations in international law. We then examine how human rights manifest themselves in a digital context. The second module explores the impact of emerging digital technologies on human rights. We critically consider the ability of digital innovations to foster or undermine human rights, in particular the rights to privacy, freedom of expression, and equality and non-discrimination. In the third module, we get acquainted with the key principles of responsible governance of digital technologies. We zoom in on the key regulatory frameworks that support a human-rights-based approach to digital regulation. In the closing, fourth module, we look at some of the best practices in responsible deployment of digital technologies. We review a range of tools available to public and private actors that promote digital inclusion and empowerment, awareness raising, education, and capacity building.

With the financial support of the Global Gateway initiative of the European Union, this course is offered for free for selected participants.

For more information about the training objectives, target population, entry requirements, methodology, evaluation and content, consult the page here.

How to apply

In order to register for the training, applicants should:

1. Create an ITU Academy account here
2. Apply for the course here
3. The selection of participants for the course will be made by the course coordinators, based on the course's entry requirements, selection criteria and available number of seats. If selected, you will receive a notification by email.

The ITU Academy is the International Telecommunication Union leading platform for capacity development initiatives.

International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations, 1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland