IGF POLAND 2023

Final report

IGF POLSKA

Warsaw, December 2023

SUMMIT ORGANISATION

The Internet Governance Forum Poland 2023, IGF Poland 2023 for short, was the next edition of the national *Internet Governance Forum (IGF*), taking place as part of a global UN initiative.
The IGF is an international dialogue platform established to promote an open, multi-stakeholder approach to internet governance. The IGF enables representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society, as well as the tech sector and the Internet community at large, to meet, discuss and exchange views on issues related to development, security and ethics in cyberspace.

Internationally, the IGF acts as a platform to share best practices, identify challenges and seek common solutions. It also helps in building consensus on issues related to global internet governance, while respecting cultural and political diversity.

At the national level, the IGF's role is usually coordinated by a national Internet body or committee. Within these structures, the IGF can act as a consultative forum where different interests and perspectives are represented. National branches of the IGF often involve representatives from government, business, NGOs, technical experts and other stakeholders.

In Poland, the IGF supports dialogue on such issues as regulating Internet access, protecting online privacy or promoting technological innovation.

IGF's value at the national level lies in creating a common platform to exchange ideas, identify country-specific challenges and develop coherent policies that take into account the diverse perspectives and needs of society. In this way, the IGF contributes to shaping a more sustainable, open and democratic future of the Internet.

This year's edition of **IGF Poland** was co-organised by the **Ministry of Digital Affairs** and **the NASK National Research Institute**. Significant contributions to the conference programme were made by all stakeholder groups designated by the UN, i.e. public administration, NGOs, academia, business, technical organisations and other stakeholders interested in a dialogue to facilitate cooperation between communities involved in shaping and developing public policies related to the Internet and digital space.

Programme Board

The IGF Poland Programme Board determines the thematic scope of the conference, monitors the call process, evaluates the applications and qualifies the sessions to be organised during the event.

The Board's work is led by **Krzysztof Szubert**, Chair of the IGF Poland Programme Board, Member of the UN IGF Leadership Panel, Vice President of the Management Board of PKO TFI (Poland), former Secretary of State and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland for the UN IGF 2021. Between 2017 and 2019, he was a Member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group to the UN Secretary-General, the so-called MAG.

Members of the IGF Poland 2023 Programme Board

- **Cezary Przybylski**, Marshall of the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship
- **Jacek Sutryk**, Mayor of Wroclaw
- **Izabela Albrycht**, Director of the Cyber Security Centre, AGH University in Kraków
- **Agata Boutanos**, Head of the ZPP Representation to the EU in Brussels
- **Grzegorz Dębowski**, Member of the Management Board of Business & Science Poland
- **Kinga Grafa**, EU Affairs Director, Permanent Representative to BusinessEurope Lewiatan, Brussels Office
- **Jolanta Jaworska**, Director of Public Affairs, IBM, Vice-President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Warsaw
- **Michał Kanownik**, President of the Management Board of ZIPSEE Digital Poland
- **Marta Kasztelan**, Tax Advisor, Partner, Sowiński i Partnerzy Kancelaria Radców Prawnych i Doradcy Podatkowego sp. p.
- prof. dr hab. inż. **Michał Kleiber**, Institute of Fundamental Technological Research, The Polish Academy of Sciences
- **Marta Mikliszańska**, Head of Group Public Affairs & ESG, Allegro
- dr hab. **Małgorzata Molęda-Zdziech**, Professor at the Warsaw School of Economics, Rector's Plenipotentiary for Cooperation with the EU.
- **Jacek Oko**, President, Office of Electronic Communications
- **Wojciech Pawlak**, Director, NASK National Research Institute
- **Marcin Petrykowski**, President of the Management Board, Atende S.A.
- dr **Aleksander Poniewierski**, Partner, EY
- **Marta Poślad**, Director, CEE & Transatlantic Public Policy, Google
- **Patrycja Sass-Staniszewska**, President of the Management Board, Chamber of Electronic Commerce
- dr hab. **Katarzyna Śledziewska**, Prof. UW, DELab Managing Director, Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of Warsaw
- prof. **Gertruda Uścińska**, President, Social Insurance Institution (ZUS)

Ongoing cooperation with the IGF Poland Programme Board:

- **Roman Bieda**, Virtual Department of Ethics and Law
- dr hab. **Katarzyna Chałubińska-Jentkiewicz**, Prof. ASW, Director of the Domain Name Registry, NASK-PIB
- **Maciej Groń**, NASK-PIB
- dr hab. **Dariusz Szostek**, Prof. UŚ, University of Silesia in Katowice

All stakeholder groups involved in the global dialogue on the future of the digital space are represented on the Programme Board.

Thematic tracks

The Programme Board decided to continue the thematic tracks initiated during the IGF Poland 2022 edition. These were:

- Technology in the service of society,
- Man on the Internet,
- Digital Legislation Forum,
- Youth Track.

This year, as part of the thematic track “Technology in the service of society”, conference participants considered how technology can benefit healthcare, how it supports commercial proceedings in the courts, and how it impacts youth education. They discussed the use of technology and data, as well as cyber security solutions in various sectors of the economy, in the context of reducing CO_2 emissions and ensuring energy security. The potential of supercomputing and related new technologies was also discussed from the perspective of developing science, improving the functioning of public administration or supporting industrial development.

The “Man on the Internet” track presented in a multidimensional way how people function in today's global network. It involved a discussion about countering disinformation and protection of human rights, digital well-being and media addiction. The security of the metaverse for people and business was considered as well. Participants discussed how to ensure the proportionate participation of women in ensuring cyberspace peace and security. They considered whether modern technologies applied in industry are a threat to humanity. The need to bridge the gaps between the needs of the cyber security industry and the skills of university graduates was also pointed out.

The “Digital Legislation Forum” track discussed legislation governing the Internet, new technologies and the digital space as a whole. Experts discussed legislative processes from a national and EU perspective.

The discussion referred to the future of artificial intelligence in the European Union, the Polish AI strategy and the role of data in the age of new technologies. Specialists presented their views on the regulation of online platforms by EU legislation, such as the Digital Services Act (DSA) or the Digital Markets Act (DMA). They also considered what the digital future of the state will be and whether changes in the law are keeping pace with technological developments. The role of various actors in shaping the sustainability of the digital economy and society was debated as well.

The Programme Board and IGF Poland organisers attach great importance to involving the younger generation in the discussion on the future of the digital space. The events included in this year's "Youth Track" were selected as part of *"The Future of the Internet Challenge*" organised by NASK and attracted a large audience during the conference, including many high-school and university students. The conference sessions were related to the metaverse and artificial intelligence. The well-known but still intricate topic of law in the metaverse was discussed, as was the issue of AI and real-time NFT generation. Other topics included new opportunities for civic participation offered by the meta-world. Also of great interest was a workshop on the reasonable use of AI tools.

Call for sessions for IGF Poland 2023

In line with previous years, the conference organisers launched a call for proposals for the organisation of thematic sessions, which received more than 60 submissions. The call was open and anyone could submit a proposal. Moreover, an information webinar was held to encourage NGOs, the scientific community, technical organisations, public administration, IT companies and young people to submit their own.

The Programme Board then analysed the submissions and chose the most highly rated sessions to be organised. The results of the call were made public and the winning sessions were included in the IGF Poland 2023 programme.

IGF POLAND 2023
Wrocław, 4 October 2023

Wrocław Congress Centre
ul. Wystawowa 1
51-618 WROCŁAW

PROGRAMME

9.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	**KEYNOTE SPEECHES** **Paweł Lewandowski**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs **Cezary Przybylski**, Marshal of the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship **Wojciech Pawlak**, NASK-PIB Director **Dr hab. Małgorzata Molęda-Zdziech, Warsaw School of Economics Professor,** IGF Poland Programme Board member **Jakub Mazur**, Deputy Mayor of Wrocław **MODERATOR** **Krzysztof Szubert**, IGF Poland Programme Board Chair, UN IGF Leadership Panel Member (Ministry of Digital Affairs) (multi-purpose room) — YT streaming				**YOUTH ACTIVITIES** (rooms 351 and 352)
9.30 a.m. – 10.20 a.m	**PLENARY SESSION** **Tomorrow will come: the era of generative artificial intelligence** (Ministry of Digital Affairs and NASK-PIB) (multi-purpose room) — YT streaming				8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Educational and information workshops for school-age youth 1/ Shaping a critical attitude towards online content: how to avoid falling for online fake news 2/ Cyberbullying — Don't promote it, react! /school recruitment process is closed/ (2 blocks, 90 min each) (NASK-PIB, Cyber Threat Prevention Department)
10.20 a.m. – 10.30 a.n	BREAK				
	TRACK I: **TECHNOLOGIES IN THE SERVICE OF SOCIETY** (room A) — YT streaming	**TRACK II:** **MAN ON THE INTERNET** (room D) — YT streaming	**TRACK III:** **DIGITAL LEGISLATION FORUM** (room B) — YT streaming	**YOUTH TRACK** (room C) — YT streaming	
10.30 a.m. – 11.10 a.n	Technology in the service of health (Wrocław Medical University)	Counteracting disinformation as a human rights protection effort. Examples and reasons for cross-sectoral activities. (Wrocław Centre for Social Development)	The future of artificial intelligence in the European Union — opportunities and challenges (Business & Science Poland)	Law in the Metaverse: AI art and creating NFTs in real time (Jakub Wyczik)	
11.10 a.m. – 11.20 a.n	BREAK				
11.20 a.m. – 12.00 p.n	How can technology help society? Results of the Tech4Society 2023 national survey. (DigitalPoland Foundation)	Poles and the Fear of Missing Out. Between digital well-being and media addiction. (NASK National Research Institute)	The Polish AI strategy: Are we on the right track? (ZIPSEE "Digital Poland")	Civic participation in the metaverse: New possibilities (Aleksandra Magiera)	
12.00 p.m. – 12.10 p.n	BREAK				
12.10 p.m. – 12.50 p.n	AI in the judiciary – an opportunity for commercial proceedings? (Chamber of the Digital Economy)	Is metaverse safe for people and businesses? Legal, technical and business perspective. (Ernst & Young Law Zakrzewska i Wspólnicy)	The role of data in the era of new technologies (Ministry of Digital Affairs, Data Management Department)	Artificial Intelligence in your hands: Workshop on responsible AI use (Kamila Dymek)	
12.50 p.m. – 1.30 p.m	LUNCH (multi-purpose room)			Room C YT streaming	
1.30 p.m. – 2.10 p.m.	How do digital solutions affect education and youth? (Council for Dialogue with the Young Generation)	Women, Peace and Cybersecurity — how to ensure women's participation in building cyberspace peace and security (AGH University)	DSA and DMA — will they relieve the Polish lawmakers of the need to regulate online platforms? (Chamber of the Digital Economy)	Revolution or evolution of electronic administrative services for citizens? Discussion based on the example of mObywatel. (Centralny Ośrodek Informatyki)	ACCOMPANYING EVENT Youth workshops: Socially responsible digitisation — define the future with us (Wrocław Centre for Social Development)
2.10 p.m. – 2.20 p.m.	BREAK				
2.20 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	New Digital Green Deal — how technology can support the green economy (Polish Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications)	Let's build a digital competencies hub — bridging the gaps between the needs of the cybersecurity industry and the skills of university graduates (NASK National Research Institute)	The digital future of the state. Are legal changes keeping pace with technological developments? Are there any restrictions related to digital exclusion? (Social Insurance Institution (ZUS))		ACCOMPANYING EVENT University student workshop: Man in the Metaverse — challenges (Ernst & Young Law Zakrzewska i Wspólnicy)
3.00 p.m. – 3.10 p.m.	BREAK			3.00 p.m. – 3.50 p.m. ACCOMPANYING EVENT VR film screening: "Warsaw Rising" "Victoria 1920"	
3.10 p.m. – 3.50 p.m.	Supercomputers are not just for science — possibilities and access (Wrocław Centre for Networking and Supercomputing, Wrocław University of Science and Technology)	Artificial intelligence, automation and robotisation of industry. Technology or man? Are modern technologies a threat to humanity? (AGH University in Kraków, Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence)	Sustainable digital development — economy and society (Cracow University of Technology)		ACCOMPANYING EVENT Digital competencies: digital business presentations on the competencies that young people should have when planning their careers. (Chamber of the Digital Economy)
4.00 p.m. – 4.10 p.m.	IGF POLAND 2023 SUMMARY SPEECH Krzysztof Szubert, IGF Poland Programme Board Chair, UN IGF Leadership Panel Member (multi-purpose room) — YT streaming				
4.10 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	COCKTAIL PARTY (multi-purpose room)				

SUMMIT COURSE

The IGF Poland 2023 took place **on 4 October 2023** at the Wrocław Congress Centre **in Wrocław**.

The conference began with keynote speeches by:

- **Paweł Lewandowski**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs
- **Cezary Przybylski**, Marshal of the Dolnośląskie Voivodeship
- **Wojciech Pawlak**, Director, NASK National Research Institute
- dr hab. **Małgorzata Molęda-Zdziech**, Professor at the Warsaw School of Economics, Member of the IGF Poland Programme Board
- **Jakub Mazur**, Deputy Mayor of Wrocław
- **Krzysztof Szubert**, Chair of the IGF Poland Programme Board, Member of the UN IGF Leadership Panel – introduction and moderation

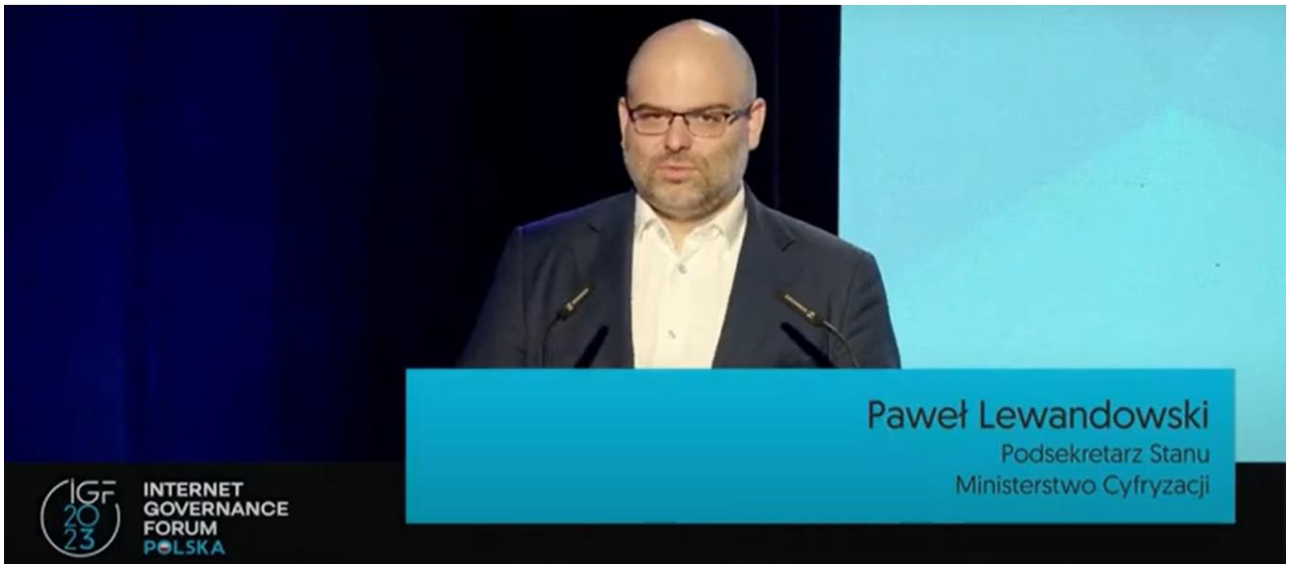

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

Addressing the more than 700 attendees, Deputy Minister **Pawel Lewandowski** stressed in his opening remarks that the IGF Poland is an open event addressed to everyone, and referred to the great importance of the sustainable development of the Internet and the entire digital space.

Immediately after the opening speeches, a debate was held on the issues of artificial intelligence, in particular its generative aspect. A detailed description of the discussion can be found later in this report.

The debate was followed by four parallel thematic tracks with 22 substantive sessions. Summaries of the sessions are provided below, maintaining the division into thematic tracks and the chronology resulting from the conference programme.

Concurrently with the thematic tracks, the first part of the day included an educational and informative workshop for schoolchildren on cyberbullying and building a critical attitude towards online content. The workshop aimed to develop young people's information literacy, as well as an informed and critical attitude towards content shared in the media, particularly social media. Participants were also introduced to selected forms of action against cyberbullying (including hate) to strengthen the sense of empowerment of students encountering unwanted situations online. The workshop was organised by the NASK National Research Institute.

The afternoon saw a series of accompanying events aimed at university students and schoolchildren, also held concurrently with the thematic tracks. These were workshops on various issues related to digital space.

One accompanying event was an all-day screening of two VR films: "Warsaw Rising" and "Victoria 1920".

The IGF Poland 2023 was held entirely in Polish.

As every year, the conference was an open, multi-stakeholder debate. During the sessions, with the active participation of the audience, the panellists discussed new proposals and solutions for responsible policies regarding the development of the Internet, new technologies and the digital space as a whole.

An exhibition zone was open throughout the conference, with stands from the European Commission Regional Representation in Wrocław, Wrocław University, Wrocław Medical University, the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), the Data Management Department of the Ministry of Digital Affairs and the NASK National Research Institute.

The conference included a press briefing, during which Deputy Minister Paweł Lewandowski and Krzysztof Szubert, Programme Board Chair, provided key information about IGF Poland 2023 and answered questions from journalists.

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

The conference concluded with the IGF Poland 2023 summary speech delivered by **Krzysztof Szubert**, IGF Poland Programme Board Chair and UN IGF Leadership Panel Member, in which he thanked the Programme Board, Wrocław City Authorities, session organisers and all participants, especially young people, for their attendance.

Among the more than 700 registered attendees were representatives of public administration, both central and local, entrepreneurs, non-governmental and technical organisations, academia and numerous young people. Such a large turnout was possible thanks to the help of the Wrocław City Hall, which actively promoted the conference among the local community, for which the IGF Poland 2023 organisers would like to thank.

All sessions of the Summit were streamed live on the YouTube channel of the Ministry of Digital Affairs. Links to the conference recordings are provided at the end of this report.

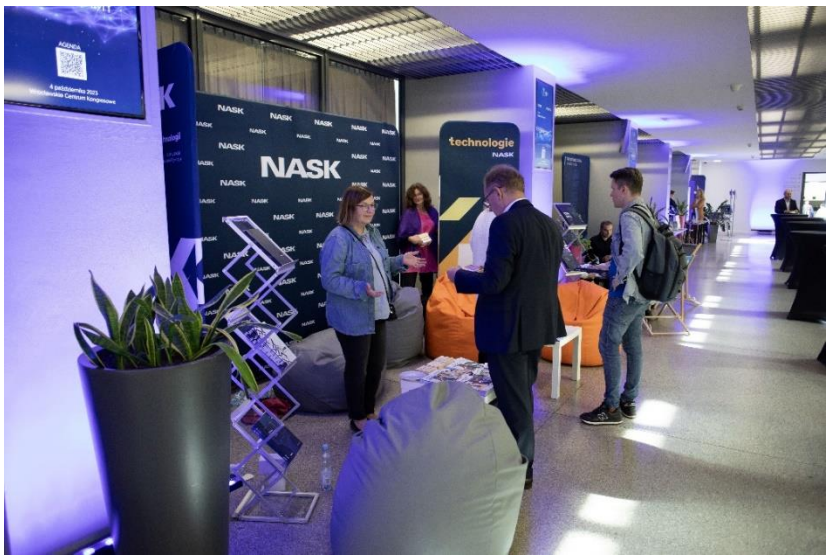

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

OPENING DEBATE

Tomorrow will come: the era of generative artificial intelligence

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

The keynote speeches were followed by the debate "*Tomorrow will come: the era of generative artificial intelligence",* organised by NASK - PIB and moderated by dr hab. prof. **Aleksandra Gasztold** from NASK-PIB/ACIG.

The panel included:

- **Paweł Lewandowski**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs;
- **Marta Poślad**, Director, CEE & Transatlantic Public Policy at Google;
- **Wojciech Pawlak**, Director, NASK-PIB;
- dr **Karol Wasilewski**, Foresight Advisor, 4CF - The Futures Literacy Company;
- **Elżbieta Wojciechowska**, President of the Digital University Foundation.

The debate concluded by highlighting the potential of generative technology and the challenges it presents. The discussion raised a number of important issues, including the need to put people at the centre of AI development, as well as the need for regulation and the role of education in adapting to change.

Deputy Minister Paweł Lewandowski stressed the importance of focusing on AI regulation at the EU level, while Director Wojciech Pawlak highlighted the need to balance the risks and potential of AI development and the need to regulate the legal and ethical framework for action.

Director Marta Pośląd pointed to the myths associated with AI and concluded that artificial intelligence can support developments in various fields, such as medicine, but will not replace humans due to a lack of emotional sensitivity.

In turn, Elżbieta Wojciechowska from Digital University emphasised the important role of education in the use of artificial intelligence and the need to guide young people responsibly and sustainably. She emphasised that care should be taken with the education system in smaller towns and cities, so as not to exclude young people and give them development opportunities, and that the education system should focus on soft skills, which will be humans' advantage.

Dr Karol Wasilewski highlighted the need to strengthen the link between legislative processes and technological development, stressing that it is important to have core values on which future legislative documents will be based. He also noted the lack of the ability to adequately look to the future and the need to shape such an ability among young people. In addition to soft skills, it is important to develop in young people the ability to perceive the future appropriately and to realise that it cannot be predicted. It is necessary not only to learn to take advantage of the opportunities the future brings but also to be able to protect oneself against risks.

All speakers agreed that while artificial intelligence has great potential, a careful approach is needed to ensure economic, social and ethical sustainability.

Track: TECHNOLOGIES IN THE SERVICE OF SOCIETY

Session: Technology in the service of healthcare

The session aimed to present examples of how technology is helping to take care of health, what has been done in this area and what is still to come. The panel began with a 15-minute presentation on the collaboration between the Wrocław Medical University and companies developing e-health solutions. The presentation was led by dr **Agnieszka Siennicka**, assistant professor in the WMU Department of Physiology and Pathophysiology, supervisor of the AI in Medicine Student Research Club and author of the faculty *Introduction to the practical application of artificial intelligence in medicine*.

Organiser
Wrocław Medical University

Moderator
Mateusz Lickindorf, student of the Faculty of Medicine at WMU and of Biomedical Engineering at WUST, Chair of the AI in Medicine Student Research Club

Panellists
prof. **Robert Zymlinski**, cardiologist, Vice-Dean for Development and Innovation at WMU, supervisor of a doctoral thesis combining artificial intelligence methods with cardiology;
Karolina Tądel, WMU doctoral student (industrial doctoral programme including AI use); Digital Health Innovation Manager, Novartis;
Przemek Jaworski, CTO, MX Labs;
Weronika Rosiak-Jedz, Product Manager & Customer Experience Consultant, Oppa;
dr **Otto Krawiec**, physician, Head of Medical Success, Infermedica;
Piotr Golczyk, CEO, EMPATYZER

Summary
The session focused on areas of collaboration with the university in the context of creating e-health/data science technologies to support diagnostics, doctor-patient communication, non-invasive monitoring of vital signs or supporting the health of employees whose daily activities may cause injury or strain. The debate participants considered what kind of medical school graduates are sought after by innovation developers, what competencies are desirable, what can be done in this area, and who would benefit from it.

All participants agreed that the cooperation between WMU and the developers of e-health solutions brings mutual benefits. WMU's expertise was highly praised, as it guarantees the excellent substantive value of any jointly developed solutions. At the same time, the involvement of experts, who are the end users (in the case of medical staff) or work with potential end-users (patients) daily, reduces the risk of commercialisation failures.

It was pointed out that the most important thing is coming to an agreement and learning about the needs of both sides. One good starting point for cooperation between universities and business can be industrial doctorate programmes, which can be carried out not only in industry (supported by the staff of technical universities) but also in medicine, pharmaceutical sciences or health sciences, i.e. disciplines available at WMU.

Session: How can technology help society? Results of the Tech4Society 2023 national survey.

The session discussed the results of the 5th edition of the “Technology in the Service of Society” national survey. One new addition in 2023 was a survey on public attitudes towards AI. The session presented the main findings of the report, broken down into seven chapters: knowledge, perceptions, trust, development and surveillance, the impact of AI on the labour market, AI regulation, women and AI. The panellists discussed the report's findings, the OECD's definition of AI and whether AI can help humanity.

Organiser
Digital Poland Foundation

Moderator
Piotr Mieczkowski, Managing Director, DigitalPoland Foundation

Panellists
prof. dr hab. inż. **Halina Kwaśnicka**, Department of Artificial Intelligence
Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Agnieszka Jankowska, Public Affairs Director, T-Mobile Polska
Filip Konopczyński, AI and emerging technologies analyst, Panoptykon Foundation
dr **Damian Flisak**, Head of Public Affairs, Ringier Axel Springer Polska

Summary
Before the discussion, Piotr Mieczkowski presented the 5th edition of the report, which is available for free download at digitalpoland.org.

The discussion was opened by Halina Kwaśnicka, who stated that several questions in the report could have been rephrased, as they could have been misleading to those proficient in AI. In response, Piotr Mieczkowski pointed to the need to use simplified language in such surveys since most respondents are average Polish citizens and not AI experts. GfK Polonia, a renowned research company, also prepared some recommendations and noted that certain questions must be simplified for the survey. Additionally, the survey itself cannot take more than 20 minutes. Otherwise, the respondent will not give reliable answers. As such, the survey questionnaire is always a compromise between expectations and reality.

Filip Konopczyński of Panoptykon raised the issue of the relevance of the presented survey, as it is currently the only representative study on the Polish public's attitude towards AI on the national market. He pointed out several interesting conclusions that emerged. For example, Poles place a strong emphasis on privacy and cyber security, and do not care about non-discrimination or algorithm openness, which shows that they are unaware of what trusted artificial intelligence is. This also shows an area for educating the public, who should use algorithms consciously.

In her speech, Agnieszka Jankowska referred to Poles' limited knowledge of AI. She pointed to the need to remodel the entire teaching process in the country – from primary school to university. The survey showed that nearly half of Poles had no opinion even on such seemingly obvious issues as the negative impact of the lack of women in AI/IT.

Damian Flisak noted the survey's interesting findings in terms of regulation. Four out of ten Poles want AI to be regulated and this attitude should please the IT community in Poland. It shows that Poles are aware of some of the challenges associated with AI, such as the lack of sufficient attention to respecting property rights in the generative AI era.

In the discussion that followed, Halina Kwaśnicka referred to the possibilities that AI offers humanity. They are practically limitless and the proper use of AI can help mankind overcome many challenges, including climate challenges. Other panel members confirmed this claim and noted the result of the survey: 39% of Poles agree with the statement that AI can solve strategic problems facing Poland, including the energy transition.

In the third and final series of questions, the panellists discussed the AI Act's definition of AI. Opinions were divided. Halina Kwaśnicka claimed that it is inadequate while Damian Flisak stated that there is no better definition of AI on the market, as there is no consensus among experts as to what AI is. The session ended with the conclusion that the definition of AI is certainly one of the key things to improve in the upcoming AI Act.

Session: AI in the judiciary – an opportunity for commercial proceedings?

The panel included AI experts and representatives of business, academia, judiciary and the Legal Counsel Association.

Organiser

Chamber of the Digital Economy

Moderator

Rafał Wieczerzak, Chabasiewicz Kowalska i Wspólnicy, University of Silesia, CYBER SCIENCE Silesian Centre for Legal Engineering, Technology and Digital Competence

Panellists

Konrad Wasik, Judge of the District Court in Przemyśl, Artificial Intelligence Working Group (GRAI) at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, VOTUM Association of Graduates and Applicants of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution
dr **Gabriela Bar**, Szostek_Bar and Partners Law Firm, University of Silesia

Anna Pietruszka, Chabasiewicz Kowalska & Partners
Robert Sowiński, Sowiński & Partners Kancelaria Radców Prawnych i Doradcy Podatkowego, Chamber of the Digital Economy

Summary

Anna Pietruszka focused primarily on how AI can affect the efficiency of legal proceedings, especially from a business standpoint. She noted that applying AI-based tools to mundane, routine matters, e.g. making simple changes to court records, could significantly speed up and simplify procedures. She also highlighted the need to modernise communication within the judiciary. She suggested that while the courts are an integral part of our system, their current methods of communication are not suited to modern realities. In her view, technologies such as AI can play a key role in transforming these mechanisms to make them more accessible and understandable to today's society.

Gabriela Bar and Robert Sowiński highlighted the complexity of introducing AI into the judicial system. Gabriela Bar focused on the ethical aspects of implementing AI. She emphasised that trust in the system is crucial and the public needs to have confidence that the technology is being used fairly and transparently. Therefore, she suggested, the optimal model would be Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI), which would be able to provide logical justification for its decisions.

Robert Sowiński discussed examples of AI applications in other countries, including China. At the same time, he noted that AI could be successfully applied in alternative dispute resolution – the UK being a case in point.

Judge Konrad Wasik shared his valuable insights on the impact of AI on the judiciary. He pointed out that the current tools implemented in the judiciary focus on process automation or digitisation. According to him, AI could, to a large extent, relieve the courts of routine activities, allowing judges to focus on more complex cases that require legal knowledge and experience. Konrad Wasik also identified potential areas of application for AI, suggesting that its integration into the judiciary has great potential, provided that this is done with due care and understanding of its limitations.

The panel addressed the legal, technical and ethical issues of implementing AI in the commercial courts. The fundamental benefit of implementing AI in the judiciary is increasing the efficiency of the judiciary and accelerating court proceedings. However, it is worth noting that while AI has great potential, its implementation must be thoughtful, gradual and in line with ethical standards.

The implementation of AI in courts should be gradual; the first step should be using AI to perform routine, repetitive and time-consuming tasks. The second step could be solutions based on hybrid intelligence. When implementing AI-powered solutions, we need to carefully analyse each in-court activity and consider which can be delegated to AI first.

Using AI in alternative dispute resolution is bound to benefit the business. Being aware of the chances of winning a dispute, and therefore receiving predicted outcomes and/or an assessment of the strength of arguments from AI, will allow us to assess a party's chances

of winning a dispute. We should use AI to issue non-binding resolutions that indicate to a party whether to take the case to court or, for example, to settle.

Session: How do digital solutions affect education and youth?

Chat GPT and AI-powered creative solutions are becoming increasingly popular. Social media is overflowing with content on how AI is helping people learn, work or develop their passions. However, these are not accompanied by a discussion on what positive or negative impact these new tools can have from a whole-system perspective as well as real-world learning outcomes.

Organiser

Council for Dialogue with the Young Generation

Moderator

Michal Czesnowski, Council for Dialogue with the Young Generation

Panellists

Pawel Urzenitzok, member of the management board of Youth Cyber Science
Martyna Łuszczek, political assistant to the Minister of Digital Affairs Janusz Cieszynski
Maksymilian Paczynski, member of the Children and Youth Council of the Ministry of Education and Science, Global Winner Intel AI Competiton
Julia Senator-Kaczprzak, GovTech Innovation Leader 2nd edition, student at the University of Warsaw

Summary

The panel began with moderator Michał Czesnowski introducing the participants in the debate, highlighting their commitment to artificial intelligence despite their young age.

After the introduction, the panellists were asked whether AI in Poland is still a curiosity or rather a serious tool already. The experts noted that it may well have been a curiosity before the emergence of Chat GPT, which revolutionised the outlook of internet users on the use of artificial intelligence in everyday life. It was pointed out that AI is a natural component of everyday life for Gen Z, appearing in school, work, relationships and interests which indicates the seriousness and prospects of new technologies. A divergent opinion was voiced by Maksymilian Paczynski, who claimed that AI is still a curiosity because discoveries in this field are constantly appearing and the average citizen has only fragmentary knowledge of artificial intelligence.

The next question to the panellists concerned the comparison of Poland in terms of digitisation against other European countries. The experts' answers showed unequivocally that Poland has nothing to be ashamed of in this aspect, and in particular, that the Polish government undertook legislative work preparing the country for the ever-growing use of

AI tools in various areas as early as several years ago. At the same time, the OpenAI team (creators of Chat GPT) includes Poles who are recognised as specialists in new technologies. It was also noted that Poland is proceeding sensibly with the implementation of new technologies, turning this into a longer process to avoid increasing social inequalities and data security risks. According to the speakers, one aspect that the country should focus on is technology start-ups and patents for digital solutions, particularly in academia.

After the general questions, the moderator asked each speaker some individual questions. He asked Paweł Urzenitzok about the technologies that are used by Gen Z in everyday life. The speaker emphasised the significant differences in the needs shown by Generation Z in contrast to previous generations. Gen Z demands the workplace to be more creative and flexible; thus, they use content generators to optimise their working hours and focus their social life on social media or – and this can be dangerous in the long run – agree to compromise their privacy by consenting to the dissemination of their data by big tech to receive more personalised and relevant content. Since AI is also used in schools, as signalled earlier by the experts, the moderator asked what schools could look like if we trusted the new technologies more. Paweł Urzenitzok pointed out the great potential of the metaverse to make lessons more lively. For example, battles could be presented in virtual reality during history lessons, which would affect student motivation and performance and help in memorising historical facts.

Referring to Paweł Urzenitzok's answer, the moderator asked Maximilian Paczyński if schools are ready to implement modern teaching solutions. The panellist pointed out that we cannot fully rely on teachers to digitise schools. Using digital solutions that they do not fully understand themselves is not their responsibility. An alternative solution could be to invite technology companies and AI vendors into schools and open up the education system to collaborate with companies whose experts would impart to students the knowledge needed in the labour market and help with projects to develop soft skills. One such course could be Business and Management, which will soon be introduced in schools.

Continuing the topic of education, the moderator asked Julia Senator-Kaczprzak about the state of digitisation of higher education institutions in Poland. In response, the expert classified it as average. The systems operated by Polish universities have all the functionalities that are available to students in Scandinavian countries or Germany. However, the problem is the quality of these functionalities. In particular, she referred to the issue of software updates and the necessity to collaborate on projects using publicly available, and not necessarily well-protected, communicators, which affects data security and information flow.

Using Chat GPT as an example, the moderator then asked Martyna Łuszczek if artificial intelligence and the way it is used in schools could pose a threat to students' creativity or, on the contrary, stimulate creative work. The speaker said that the student's use of content generation stems from the homework and its imitative nature, which in itself does not provide opportunities for creativity. According to the recent *AI Act*, using Chat GPT for

homework is classified as plagiarism. The speaker showed that the tool offered by OpenAI can be used to create developing projects, but on the other hand, it provides a space for abuse, which is something to watch out for. AI poses a greater threat when it comes to optimising content and adapting it to user preferences. The example of Tik Tok, which uses psychological techniques to get young people addicted and thus generate profits, was mentioned in this respect. Tik Tok is a clear example of causing creativity disorders and habituating the brain to short stimuli.

Pawel Urzenitzok contributed to Martyna Luszczek's remarks by adding that work is underway on the Khanmigo chatbot, which, unlike Chat GPT, will show the user how to achieve the result themselves instead of simply giving it to them. He also emphasised the content value of this tool for students.

Concluding the debate, the moderator asked about the vision of transforming the curriculum in terms of AI and new technologies. Maksymilian Paczyński pointed out that it would be easier to add dedicated classes to the core curriculum of computer science than to create a separate subject. According to him, computer science should show students the possibilities of new technologies, including biometrics, and allow them to learn about legal regulations on the use of the internet as well as safety rules.

Julia Senator-Kaczprzak added that it is worth teaching students about the effective use of content generators and the dangers of online data theft, as well as how content optimisation works and what information ISPs have about us.

Paweł Urzenitzok pointed to knowledge in the following three areas that should be imparted to students: how to skilfully use AI solutions, how to check the veracity of information found online, and how to skilfully use new technologies to understand them and know when and where to use them.

Martyna Łuszczek agreed with the previous speakers and added that we should only teach as much as young people realistically need. After all, not everyone needs to be an AI expert. In the future, there will certainly be professions that require such knowledge, but the human factor will not be excluded because soft skills are unattainable for AI.

Session: **New Digital Green Deal – how technology can support the green economy**

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

The panel aimed to show how the use of technology, i.e. 5G, data or cyber security solutions, in many sectors of the economy can contribute to reducing emissions and ensuring national energy security.

Organiser

Polish Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications

Moderator

Andrzej Dulka, President, Polish Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications

Panellists

Paweł Lewandowski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Monika Tenerowicz, Chief Climate Strategy Expert, Orange Polska
Marcin Petrykowski, President, Atende SA
Olaf Krynicki, Vice-President of PCIT; Director of Communications, Samsung Electronics Polska

Summary
The climate crisis is a real threat to humanity, requiring a comprehensive action plan implemented at the state level. Digitisation is a tool to help meet accepted climate policy goals. To capitalise on its potential as a catalyst for green transformation, proactive action is needed in Europe by both regulators (whether at the EU or national level) and ICT companies to enable the sector to rapidly achieve climate neutrality, as well as to deploy further services and solutions to support the decarbonisation of other sectors of the economy while ensuring the cyber security of sensitive infrastructure. Challenges facing the green integration of technology into the economy now include the ICT sector's carbon footprint, e-waste, the role of e-commerce in boosting consumption, privacy, cyber-attacks, unequal access to digital infrastructure and the danger of broken supply chains.

Digitisation can affect the fulfilment of climate policy goals in many ways: by improving infrastructure, optimising production and transport processes, providing information on climate change or evolving consumer and staff behaviour. Using digital technologies is essential to achieving the climate goals of the global economy. In this context, it is useful to understand the potential of digitisation in the fight against climate change, and to become aware of the challenges that the ICT sector will have to face to have a positive impact on the climate – from the key issue of energy generation structure, the main source of ICT emissions, to network cyber security. The role of sectoral cooperation towards climate goals, exemplified by the PCIT Declaration for Climate Protection announced in April 2022, cannot be overestimated either.

Session: Supercomputers are not just for science – possibilities and access

The session aimed to show how supercomputing and related new technologies can serve science, improve public administration and contribute to industry.

photo: Wrocław University of Technology Networking and Supercomputing Centre

Organiser

Wrocław Centre for Networking and Supercomputing, Wrocław University of Science and Technology

Moderator

Marta Maj, HPC specialist, AGH University Academic Computer Centre Cyfronet

Panellists

dr **Mateusz Tykierko**, Deputy Director, Wrocław Centre for Networking and Supercomputing, WUST,
Marek Magryś, Deputy Director for High-Performance Computing, AGH University Academic Computer Centre Cyfronet
dr **Beata Krawczyk-Bryłka**, Director of International MBA studies, Gdansk University of Technology, IT Centre of the Tri-City Academic Computer Network, GUT
Agata Grzelińska, promotion specialist, Wrocław Centre for Networking and Supercomputing, WUST

Summary

Marta Maj presented European and Polish projects enabling the development of supercomputing infrastructure in Poland. As a financing institution, EuroHPC JU (Joint Undertaking) supports the deployment, expansion and maintenance of world-class supercomputers in Europe and the development of innovative technologies and applications. The EuroHPC JU co-finances such projects as:

- National Supercomputing Infrastructure for EuroHPC – EuroHPC PL (as part of which new, faster computing clusters are being installed in Poland);
- European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), which aims, among other things, to make scientific data and the tools and resources to store, share, process and manage it available;
- EuroCC2, or EuroHPC National Competence Centres – Phase 2, as part of which the National HPC Competence Centre was established. The Polish NCC comprises:
    - AGH University Academic Computer Centre Cyfronet,
    - Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computer Modelling, University of Warsaw,
    - Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Centre,
    - IT Centre of the Tri-City Academic Computer Network,
    - National Centre for Nuclear Research,
    - Wrocław Centre for Networking and Supercomputing.

The computing infrastructure for Polish users was discussed by Mateusz Tykierko. He explained what supercomputers are and what their computing power is in Poland. He then went on to discuss how a supercomputer is built and what problems have to be overcome for the infrastructure to work efficiently (e.g. power supply, cooling, or managing calculations run by users). He also talked, among other things, about the inter-level network, data storage and queuing system for managing computing activities, as well as technologies and applications coupled with HPC.

The NCC enables scientists, entrepreneurs and public administration staff to use both Polish and European HPC systems. Marek Magryś discussed how these can be accessed. He introduced the PLGrid Consortium, which manages distributed computing infrastructure for science, and the PLGrid Portal, through which computing grants are awarded (including for LUMI – Europe's fastest computer, which was built with Polish participation).

Using HPC resources requires adequate preparation. The NCC was established, among other things, to provide training and expert support to users at all levels. Agata Grzelińska talked about the range of training opportunities available in Poland and abroad and discussed the promotion of HPC services.

On the other hand, Beata Krawczyk-Bryłka presented examples of using supercomputers in science, public administration and industry, such as designing several short peptides that, when deposited on gold plates, can be used to identify the presence of specific odourants. Other notable applications included optimising structural elements involved in the mixing process, conducting an aerodynamic analysis of a helicopter rotor and simulating flows in wind turbine rotors.

Polish computing centres have increasingly fast and high-powered computers which can be used by scientists, public administration staff and entrepreneurs, especially SMEs. The session presented computing opportunities for all audiences with application processing paths, training, as well as hardware and software resources. With supercomputing resources and related new technologies – artificial intelligence, large-scale data processing and quantum computing – it is possible to boost scientific development, improve the functioning of public administration and support industrial growth.

The point of contact for access to the fastest computing machines in Europe is the HPC National Competence Centre.

Session: **Revolution or evolution of electronic administrative services for citizens? Discussion based on the example of the mCitizen.**

This year's IGF Poland included a debate on the nature and pace of the development of electronic public administration services. Participants sought an answer to the question of whether these changes should be revolutionary, introducing rapid, deep and far-reaching changes, or rather evolutionary, building on previous user experience.

Photo: Central Information Technology Centre

Organiser

Central Information Technology Centre

Moderator

Ewa Wasilewska, UX content design expert, Central Information Technology Centre

Panellists

Dominika Łukoszek, Head of the Digital Accessibility Team, Central Information Technology Centre
Michał Galubiński, Senior UX/UI Designer, Central Information Technology Centre
Łukasz Posłuszny, UX researcher, Central Information Technology Centre
Paweł Tkaczyk, Senior UX Designer, Central Information Technology Centre

Summary

Participants looked at the topic using the example of one of the flagship products they are working on at the Central Information Technology Centre – the mCitizen mobile app. While having different roles and perspectives, participants agreed that it is difficult to give a clear answer to the question of whether changes to digital government services should be abrupt, extensive and deep or steady and gradual. They pointed to two possible approaches in this respect: evolutionary and revolutionary.

The user's perspective and expectations were the primary aspects presented by the speakers. They emphasised the need for research which is essential from the perspective of UX designers, content designers and digital accessibility specialists. This is because of the beneficial effects that it brings, including solutions that better match user expectations, a more efficient design process and reduced costs for organisations.

However, apart from the aspects mentioned, the panellists also showed what elements of their work on digital products for citizens could be considered revolutionary. Among these, they mentioned the emphasis on the accessibility of digital products for the widest possible target group (including, e.g. visually impaired people), but also how these products work. They clearly emphasised that the participation of the actual target group (citizens) in the process of creating digital solutions is particularly valuable. This allows designers to learn about the actual needs of citizens and their perspectives.

The role of language and system design in the process of creating digital solutions was also an important topic in this debate. While they are two completely different elements of design work, they hold the activities of these different roles together. The language used in the mCitizen app is the result of usability tests carried out in design and is an important part of the digital product interface. The design system, on the other hand, makes each successive solution connect naturally with existing products and services. This makes the user experience much simpler and more intuitive.

The debate's conclusion involved a discussion on the impact of these solutions on other European countries. Interest in the digitisation of public administration services is already apparent, as is an exchange of knowledge about solutions that are already in place in this area.

In a retrospective look at the products they are working on, the participants also emphasised that the last few years have been a real digital revolution. After all, would anyone imagine just five years ago that one day we would have our ID cards on our phones at all times and that we would be able to file official forms from wherever we were?

Track: MAN ON THE INTERNET

Session: **Counteracting disinformation as a human rights protection effort. Examples and reasons for cross-sectoral activities.**

Participants analysed the consequences of disinformation for public structures, local order, media messaging and young people. They explained why and how they work together across sectors to combat disinformation and presented specific, ongoing projects. Further, they discussed why the fight against disinformation is necessary to protect human rights.

Photo: Wrocław Centre for Social Development

Organiser

Wrocław Centre for Social Development

Moderator

Martyna Wilk, expert on socially responsible digitisation, Wrocław Centre for Social Development

Panellists

Maja Zabokrzycka, President of the House of Peace Foundation
Martyna Gacek Świecik, Information and Communication Specialist, European Commission Regional Representation in Poland
dr hab. **Karina Stasiuk-Krajewska**, Professor, SWPS University
Rafał Gwizd, assistant, European educator, European Union Information Centre in Wrocław
Anastasiia Dzhulinska, student of class 2A, No. XV High School in Wrocław

Summary

The main consequences of disinformation for public institutions (at the EU, state and local levels) are a reduction in trust in these institutions and democratic mechanisms (consensus, consultations and long decision-making processes are all perceived as weaknesses).

Experiences and observations from workshops on countering disinformation suggest that people are much more likely to consider themselves victims rather than creators of disinformation or fake news. They tend to feel immune to disinformation and have a deep sense that it is representatives of other social groups and other generations who are more susceptible to it.

The consequences of disinformation are significant for the local order (e.g. for coexistence in communities, in cities, in the workplace). It makes people feel insecure in their immediate environment, possibly triggering a siege mentality (they are willing to trust only those closest to them).

Communication style and the ability to build a dialogue is of great importance in terms of vulnerability to disinformation, fake news and conspiracy theories. The higher the communication competencies (i.e. the ability to listen attentively and express one's thoughts clearly and in a way that is not offensive to interlocutors), the greater the chance that one will not fall into thought patterns that lead them to believe false information.

Disinformation strongly influences media messaging. Certainly, media creators must understand that they cannot fully escape the problem of disinformation, as the role of the media is to disseminate content. Therefore, great importance should be attached to recognising situations in which media creators (and thus their audiences) begin to succumb not only to disinformation but also to fake news, misinformation and information overload (the latter plays a particularly significant role in increasing people's vulnerability to disinformation).

Disinformation unequivocally affects mankind’s position in the world, threatening human rights and the global order.

Young people expect the older generation to understand that it is necessary to analyse the information they receive. If the older generations start doing this, young people are bound to see that it is indeed possible to defend against disinformation. Holding masterclasses on disinformation for young children will also play an important role in this, as they will be witnessing society's actions against disinformation from childhood and grow up feeling safe.

Young people point out that children need to be taught critical thinking from an early age. They must be shown that not everything they see is true. Therefore, children need to be taught to analyse information, but at the same time, it must be ensured that they do not start doubting everything they hear. It is therefore important that education in this area is handled by qualified experts.

Solutions related to the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA) regulation should be introduced. The act establishes legal obligations to combat disinformation in relation to online platforms and search engines.

To win the fight against disinformation, disinformation must be constantly analysed and mechanisms, legislation and good practices must be created at multiple levels.

Session: **Poles and the Fear of Missing Out. Between digital well-being and media addiction.**

Photo: NASK National Research Institute

During the debate, selected results of the nationwide study "FOMO 2022. Poles and the Fear of Missing Out" were presented. The experts drew attention to the ever-increasing proportions of people experiencing high levels of FOMO. The latter already affects almost one in five internet users and one in three among teenagers and young adults. Participants pointed out the co-occurrence of the phenomenon of Fear of Missing Out with other problematic conditions, phenomena and behaviours, such as information overload, high stress levels, excessive social media use, smartphone addiction and engaging in risky behaviours. The panellists emphasised the need to build public awareness of FOMO and support activities leading to increased digital well-being among Polish internet users.

Organiser

NASK National Research Institute

Moderator

Dr hab. **Małgorzata Molęda-Zdziech**, prof. SGH, Department of Political Studies, Warsaw School of Economics

Panellists

prof. UW, dr hab. **Anna Jupowicz-Ginalska**, Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies of the University of Warsaw
Katarzyna Iwanicka, dr, Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies, University of Warsaw
Anna Borkowska, National Research Institute NASK
Marta Witkowska, National Research Institute NASK

Summary

The panel was opened by Professor Anna Jupowicz-Ginalska, initiator and coordinator of the research project "FOMO. Poles and the Fear of Missing Out", presenting the historical outline of the project, which was the fourth study addressing the topic of FOMO, primarily in the context of the prevalence of FOMO-related experiences. She also presented a broad spectrum of scientific and educational activities linked to the study itself – a knowledge portal, social initiatives and educational workshops – offering a multi-faceted approach to build public awareness of the issue, enhance digital well-being and counteract addiction to new media and display devices.

Marta Witkowska, digital education expert at NASK, presented a definition of FOMO and outlined the scale of the phenomenon among Polish Internet users, pointing to the growing dependence on display devices and the Fear of Missing Out, which affects as many as 17% of all respondents and nearly 30% of teenagers and young adults. The expert also drew attention to the silver generation, in which the level of high FOMO is growing the fastest.

Anna Borkowska, a digital education expert at NASK, highlighted an attempt to take a broader research approach to define the phenomenon, pointing out that FOMO accumulates many fears related to digital functioning (including anxiety related to lack of impact on the social media space, managing information from multiple sources and fulfilling the need of self-presentation).

Katarzyna Iwanicka referred to the risks co-occurring with FOMO, primarily alcohol addiction. In the 2022 post-pandemic FOMO report, the percentage of people with high FOMO who report drinking harmfully has increased. She noted the co-occurrence of FOMO with increased tension, which psychoactive substances can alleviate.

In the discussion that followed, Anna Borkowska addressed the link between FOMO and information overload, stress and overuse of social media and display devices. She pointed out the significant differences between high-FOMO individuals and internet users in general, highlighting the vicious cycle mechanism driving the negative consequences of FOMO. She highlighted the strong reliance of adolescents on display devices, which adversely affects digital hygiene.

In the second part of the panel, the experts focused on providing recommendations for action to improve digital hygiene and counter screen addiction. Professor Anna Jupowicz-Ginalska referred to the need to adjust one's digital well-being regimen and adapt practical solutions considering one's capabilities. She pointed out the need for dialogue and agreement on the use of digital devices within the family to bridge the gap between parent recommendations and the requirements for children's use of technology.

The panel moderator highlighted the value of the report in dispelling certain myths related to FOMO (such as its low prevalence or the beneficial effects of multitasking).

Dr Katarzyna Iwanicka pointed out the importance of proper identification of needs in the context of planning a strategy for sustainable use of new media: unsatisfied needs can be the cause of over-involvement in the digital world. She also mentioned the method of small steps – setting yourself small challenges to start with.

Marta Witkowska also stressed the importance of small steps in changing habits and the value of peer support. She invited parents and teachers to use the digital resources of the OSE IT Szkoła platform to help guide conversations and digital well-being activities. She also noted that the strategies and methods chosen should be verified in terms of effectiveness in the given case.

Anna Borkowska encouraged the change of habits to be supported by technology: using native apps on smartphones, managing notifications differently, etc. Furthermore, she referred to the impact of apps on our brain, which rewards us for using the device for as long as possible – "it is us who manage our phones, not vice-versa".

For more, visit the website of the project "FOMO. Poles and the Fear of Missing Out": https://fomo.wdib.uw.edu.pl/

Session: **Is metaverse safe for people and businesses? Legal, technical and business perspective.**

The session covered a range of topics related to metaverse virtual worlds such as:
- the position and plans of the European Union bodies,
- the main challenges for companies and individuals in the metaverse
- the law that currently regulates the presence of companies and individuals in the metaverse and whether the current regulations provide sufficient protection.

Organiser
Ernst & Young Law Zakrzewska & Partners

Moderator
Maciej Groń, Advisor to the Director of the NASK Regulatory Affairs and Scientific Cooperation Division

Panellists
Jonasz Danilewicz, manager, EY Poland, Technology Consulting
Olga Rentflejsz, manager and attorney, EY Law
Zuzanna Choińska, Analyst, DELab UW, doctoral student at the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, University of Warsaw
Emilia Zalewska-Czajczyńska, Youth IGF **POLAND**
Anna Podgórska-Buompane, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, Digitisation Unit
Filip Konopczyński, AI and emerging technologies analyst, Panoptykon Foundation

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

Summary

The discussion took the form of conversation and speeches divided into legal, scientific, business and public administration segments.

In the opening speech, Maciej Groń presented the essence of the metaverse. A video showing an example of the metaverse was also shown.

In the first part of the discussion, the moderator asked the panellists about the positions of the EU authorities and the main challenges for both individuals and companies present in the metaverse.

Anna Podgórska-Buompane spoke about the European Commission's Communication on Virtual Worlds (July 2023) and the extensive consultation carried out in this regard. She highlighted the global value of the market, the opportunities this technology creates in specific sectors (e.g. healthcare, creative sector and education) and the challenges and risks of monopolies. She also discussed the European Parliament's response to the European Commission's communication (August 2023), as well as the IMCO Report, and the opinion of the CULT (Committee on Culture and Education).

Jonasz Danilewicz spoke about the impact of the metaverse on business, giving examples such as virtual shops, offices and events (a different way of interacting with external and internal customers). He also discussed the issues of advanced technologies on which the

metaverse is based, e.g. using AR and VR devices to integrate virtual elements with the real environment, and the use of blockchain to manage data and virtual assets through tokenisation.

Filip Konopczyński pointed out that it is difficult to state unequivocally what exactly the metaverse is, as the technology for it is not yet sufficiently advanced. It is challenging to create a one-size-fits-all regulation for the metaverse due to the multiplicity of issues that should be covered, as well as the problems of dispute resolution and data use and access.

Zuzanna Choińska pointed to the creation of a safe space for users based on clear and transparent rules as one of the metaverse's biggest challenges. She highlighted the need to ensure that crimes (e.g. terrorism) can also be effectively combated by law enforcement in the simulated world. Furthermore, the metaverse creates new opportunities for user profiling and targeting, and thus manipulation, through access to a wider range of data.

Emilia Zalewska-Czajczyńska emphasised the need to develop new governance models that would take into account the multitude of stakeholders operating in the metaverse (e.g. users, platform operators, states and EU bodies) to ensure equal involvement in the creation of virtual reality. What is problematic, however, is how and on what basis to develop such a system – a question that remains unanswered at the moment.

Maciej Groń began the second half of the discussion by asking what law regulates the presence of companies and individuals in the metaverse and whether current regulations provide sufficient protection against the risks and dangers inherently linked with the technology in question.

Olga Rentflejsz drew attention to the plethora of regulations at the EU level. She spoke about the *Digital Services Act*, which regulates, among other things, platforms responsible for building the metaverse and requires them to establish mechanisms to deal with illegal content. The *Digital Markets Act*, the *Artificial Intelligence Act,* as well as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Police Directive were also discussed. Notably, Polish national legislation such as the Criminal Code, the Civil Code and the Consumer Protection Act will also apply to the metaverse. The question then arises as to whether it is possible to effectively determine the applicable jurisdiction, given the global nature of the metaverse.

When asked whether we currently have a sufficient legal framework to regulate the metaverse, Zuzanna Choińska replied that despite the existence of such legislation, the biggest challenge is the enforcement of existing laws by law enforcement agencies.

Filip Konopczyński added that we are now already seeing a change in the approach of EU legislators to identifying and preventing potential risks. They are increasingly shifting this burden to platform operators, which is why dialogue between EU institutions is important.

The discussion was closed by Maciej Groń who summarised all the issues discussed and the interrelationships between them.

Session: **Women, Peace and Cybersecurity – how to ensure women's participation in building cyberspace peace and security**

Photo: AGH University in Kraków

What are the key lessons from the war in Ukraine in terms of the importance and implications of cyber-attacks and cyber campaigns for peace and security? What are the key barriers to women's careers in cybersecurity? What are the proposed political and diplomatic ways in which cybersecurity and other non-standard security issues are linked to the four dimensions of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda: participation, prevention, protection and relief and recovery? What are the key areas where Poland and Ukraine can contribute valuable experience? These and other questions were answered during the panel discussion.

Organiser

AGH University in Kraków

Moderator

Magdalena Ostasz, Managing Director of W4C Poland, Coordinator of the AGH Counselling Team and Partner at Ostasz & Stadnik sp.p.

Panellists

Zuzanna Wieczorek, CEO/CTO, Tekniska Polska Przemysłowe Systemy Transmisji Danych Sp. z o.o.

Justyna Orłowska, Plenipotentiary of the Prime Minister for Govtech 2020-2023

Iwona Prószyńska, Cybersecurity Communication Specialist, CERT Polska

Anna Podgórska-Buompane, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, Digitisation Unit
Anastasiia Moroz, communications manager, State Service for Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine

Summary
The discussion aimed to answer the question of how to ensure women's participation in building peace and security in cyberspace and to consider the possibility of including cybersecurity" in the *Women, Peace and Security* agenda. Efforts to involve women in the above-mentioned issues are becoming more and more common around the world. However, there is still an insufficient number of women in this sector. On 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Resolution 1325 is seen as a cornerstone for the development of the UN Agenda, which includes a toolkit to support efforts to increase women's involvement in armed conflict prevention and resolution, as well as peacebuilding. It also calls for ensuring the adequate participation of women in efforts to maintain and promote peace and security and for the inclusion of women in decision-making processes related to conflict prevention and resolution.

The debate participants, as experts in the sector in question, agreed that we are witnessing a transformation in the field of cybersecurity and women are increasingly becoming part of this ecosystem. Nevertheless, we still need to take a lot of initiatives in this area for the actual participation to be at a much higher level and for this process to continue.

Speakers representing different professional areas within cybersecurity provided their perspectives on how we can ensure gender balance in different social spaces – business, education or defence.

Iwona Prószyńska discussed the increasing involvement of women in CERT, the sense of mission and the role of parents in early childhood education. Anna Podgórska-Buompane spoke about what diversity looks like from the point of view of the UN and EU agenda, as well as Poland's EU presidency in 2025 and the opportunities this presents. Indeed, 2025 will bring plenty of means and chances to lobby for "cybersecurity" to be placed on the *Women, Peace and Security* agenda. Zuzanna Wieczorek talked about how she views the situation in the market from the perspective of business and her company, pointing out that companies primarily consider competencies and not gender, and that there are more and more competent women in the field of cybersecurity. Anastasiia Moroz from Ukraine, who "fights a cyber war" daily, touched on the difficult topic of cybersecurity operations in wartime and the significant participation of women in this field. She pointed out that the Ukrainian CERT is managed by a woman and emphasised that cybersecurity activities in times of war are one of the most important duties, which are carried out mainly by women whom the country supports. Justyna Orłowska talked about the limitations that women impose on themselves. Thus, to ensure women's participation in peacebuilding and security in cyberspace, it is necessary to act very broadly – both at the parental level and

in the public and private sectors, as well as on the political level. From this perspective, the inclusion of cybersecurity aspects in the *Women, Peace and Security (WPS)* agenda is not an issue to be resolved, but rather only a matter of time.

Session: **Let's build a digital competencies hub – bridging the gaps between the needs of the cybersecurity industry and the skills of university graduates**

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

Education that is responsive to the needs of the changing cyber threat landscape, increased interest in cybersecurity careers and attention to increasing diversity (including greater representation of women and young people) are the key findings of an international study, coordinated by experts from the IS3C coalition of the Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The session presented the results of the report, supplemented by expert comments.

Organiser
NASK National Research Institute

Moderator
Anna Rywczyńska

Panellists
dr **Gabriela Bar**
dr **Sylwia Kotecka-Kral**
dr **Anna Felkner**
dr **Lidia Stępińska-Ustasiak**
Julia Piechna
att. **Maciej Groń**

Summary

The panel presented the key findings of a study on the competencies of young people entering the cybersecurity workforce, with a sample of 235 respondents (business and higher education representatives) from 65 countries.

According to respondents from the business and industry sector (64% of the total), the most important cross-cutting skills required in graduates are critical thinking, problem-solving skills, teamwork skills and creativity. In contrast, the most important professional skills are risk prevention and internet security risk management. The industry representatives attached about 10% more importance to cross-cutting and professional skills than the education sector representatives. The level of cross-cutting skills in young people was rated as good or moderate by as little as 67% of industry and business representatives. In this respect, they rated verbal and written communication skills and teamwork skills highest, and holistic thinking lowest. Almost half of this group (44%) rated the average level of professional competencies of graduates as low or very low. The highest-rated professional competency was understanding of secure online communication and internet technologies, while the lowest rated was knowledge of cloud computing security.

The education sector rates graduates better than entrepreneurs, ranking creativity and problem-solving skills as well as verbal communication and teamwork skills as the most important cross-cutting competencies. In contrast, the opposite was true for professional requirements, among which an understanding of secure online communication and internet technologies was deemed the most important.

Overall, the survey findings show that the priorities of the industry and education communities in terms of cross-cutting skills are different, though more in terms of assigned importance than area of focus. The study resulted in recommendations that can help bridge the gap between the needs of the cybersecurity industry and the skills of university graduates.

Competencies should be better developed by transitioning away from traditional forms of training to, e.g. peer learning, mentoring, etc. There should also be a return to basics to allow young people to learn how technologies work, as without this their creativity may be impaired. It is also crucial to raise awareness of the importance of cyber security at all levels of education, which could spark interest in a career in this field. It is also necessary to improve collaboration between industry and education.

Key recommendations:

- Establish a Digital Competencies HUB comprising representatives from science, business and community organisations.
- The HUB should research the market's expectations regarding the sought-after and expected qualifications and competencies of cybersecurity personnel.
- The HUB should prepare recommendations/guidelines for universities regarding the curriculum and market needs;
- The HUB should integrate the business and scientific communities so that recommendations can be implemented effectively;

- The democratisation of cybersecurity competencies – over 99% of data is generated digitally, so all personnel (not just IT) should be involved in its protection;
- There is a need to involve more women in cybersecurity activities on the side of the education sector as well as businesses;
- Close cooperation between universities and the private sector is necessary because it gives rise to programmes tailored to the needs of business and allows practitioners to share the latest cybersecurity knowledge. One example of such cooperation is the Cybersecurity Management postgraduate programme, launched this year at Kozminski University in partnership with T-Mobile. It includes experienced T-Mobile personnel teaching classes on such topics as using artificial intelligence mechanisms to support security, the principles of creating and managing CERT/CSIRT/SOC teams and implementing cybersecurity strategy and architecture in organisations.

Session: **Artificial intelligence, automation and robotisation of industry. Technology or man? Are modern technologies a threat to humanity?**

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

In recent years, the development of artificial intelligence, automation and robotisation has significantly changed the face of industry. On the one hand, these advanced technologies have brought many benefits, such as increased production efficiency, improved product quality, cost reductions and automated solutions to handle difficult and hazardous activities. However, at the same time, concerns have grown about the impact of these changes on personnel. The panel focused on analysing the impact of modern technologies on industry and the associated human risks.

Organiser

AGH University in Kraków, Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence

Moderator

dr hab. inż. **Paweł Malinowski**, Professor at AGH University

Panellists

Tomasz Jaworski, an expert on digital transformation of the public sector, Kozminski University
Stefan Życzkowski, Astor
Katarzyna Szymielewicz, Panoptykon Foundation
Ziemowit Dworakowski, AGH University

Summary

The discussion on artificial intelligence, automation and robotisation of industry should consider both the positive and negative impacts of implementing these technologies. During the panel, important questions were raised regarding the benefits and risks associated with using these technologies in industry.

The discussion focused on the prospects for the development of artificial intelligence, automation and robotisation in the next few years, as well as the challenges for businesses and the state associated with their introduction and arising from the need for changes in education and systemic and regulatory solutions, particularly in the area of robot autonomy. The benefits that the introduction of these technologies is already bringing, and those that it may bring soon, were discussed as well. On the one hand, artificial intelligence, automation and robotisation make it possible to increase production efficiency and improve product quality. Automation and robotisation also make it possible to increase occupational safety and reduce accidents, as well as to detect faulty components, and predict failures. On the other hand, these technologies can lead to layoffs and harm socio-economic development. The question must therefore be raised as to whether they will lead to an increase in unemployment or rather bring about a change in the qualifications and skills required of workers. It seems necessary to develop appropriate regulations and strategies to ensure that artificial intelligence and robotics are used responsibly and in line with social values and national economic development goals.

It is also vital to discuss ethical issues related to the use of artificial intelligence, automation and robotisation in industry. It is worth considering the risks associated with these technologies, e.g. in the context of data security or legal liability for mistakes made by artificial intelligence.

Stefan Życzkowski, founder of Astor, said that the company is early in the process of implementing artificial intelligence in automation and robotics.

Tomasz Jaworski said that large technology companies are good indicators of what is being done in terms of artificial intelligence. He also pointed out the lack of skilled workers in artificial intelligence.

In turn, Ziemowit Dworakowski defined what artificial intelligence is. He stressed that an important factor when implementing artificial intelligence is access to good-quality data.

Katarzyna Szymielewicz referred to the panel's topic – "Technology or man?" – and pointed out that many professions will cease to exist and be replaced by new ones requiring new competencies. She emphasised that humans should cooperate with artificial intelligence systems and should never surrender total control to these systems. She also indicated that the European Union is developing the relevant legislation.

Tomasz Jaworski stated that it is impossible to regulate artificial intelligence through legislation.

Ziemowit Dworakowski addressed the topic of decision support systems in medicine and the role of humans, asking whether decisions should be made by man or machine.

Stefan Życzkowski said that the law will never keep up with technologies. Because of technological advances, some professions will be eliminated and new ones will take their place.

The issue of good data quality, a crucial aspect of building good artificial intelligence models, was discussed as well.

Lastly, Tomasz Jaworski pointed to the importance of using artificial intelligence systems in SMEs.

IGF POLSKA

Track – DIGITAL LEGISLATION FORUM

Session: The future of artificial intelligence in the European Union – opportunities and challenges

Photo: Business & Science Poland

This expert debate on artificial intelligence regulation – *AI Act* – analysed the impact of EU regulations on citizens, businesses and public entities. The experts presented their insights, conclusions and perspectives on the development of artificial intelligence from the point of view of EU legislation and Polish business. Key aspects of the *AI Act* were discussed, including responsibility, transparency, data security and data protection, which are indispensable elements for the effective functioning of artificial intelligence in the context of the EU regulatory framework.

Organiser
Business & Science Poland

Moderator
Katarzyna Lachowicz, Director of the Brussels Branch of Business & Science Poland

Panellists
Kosma Złotowski, Member of the European Parliament
Małgorzata Nikowska, Head of Unit – Digital Transformation of Industrial Ecosystems, European Commission, DG CONNECT
att. **Roman Bieda**, Chair of the Management Board of the AI LAW TECH Foundation
Carlo Paolicelli, Deputy Director of the Future Industry Ecosystem Unit, Future Industry Platform

Summary

The expert debate was opened by Katarzyna Lachowicz. She pointed out that artificial intelligence is one important economic area that has not yet found an established place in legal regulations. She emphasised that in the ongoing technology race and the current geopolitical situation, the EU's draft *AI Act* regulation has taken on particular importance from the point of view of economic and digital security. She also pointed out that an important aspect of any other EU regulation is to support the development and ensure that European companies remain competitive in global markets and create an enabling environment.

The debate analysed the impact of the Union's AI regulations on citizens, businesses and public entities. Kosma Złotowski, a shadow rapporteur for the *AI Act*, discussed the most important issues raised during the trilateral negotiations between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council, among which the most controversial included the list of banned systems, the scope of categories of high-risk AI systems and the so-called general-purpose AI, e.g. Chat GPT, as well as the AI Office, a new body to oversee the implementation of the *AI Act*.

Małgorzata Nikowska emphasised that digital transition is linked to the European Commission's ambitious goals for 2030: the adoption of AI by businesses, 75% of EU companies using cloud-related technologies and Big Data and at least 90% of EU SMEs reaching a basic level of digitisation. Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme are intended to help achieve this.

Roman Bieda noted that the *AI Act* will need to be amended soon because of the nature of the legislation, technological developments and advances. He stated that risk assessment provisions and open clauses that guarantee clarity, oversight and cybersecurity are a good direction. Further, he drew attention to the need to include in the regulation new quantum technology, which brings new possibilities for data processing but also new risks in the area of fundamental rights and data protection.

Carlo Paolicelli stressed that artificial intelligence is an open-access tool whose use cannot be restricted territorially. In his opinion, Polish small and medium-sized entrepreneurs are highly creative, developing many solutions using artificial intelligence, but innovation must be combined with more flexible regulations.

The panellists agreed that the *AI Act* is a necessary document in this age of technological development and today's geopolitical situation. However, they had different opinions on its scope and level of detail.

According to Małgorzata Nikowska, the goal of the *AI Act* is to ensure safety while using technologies, particularly artificial intelligence. It aims to increase skills and trust on the one hand and impose certain responsibilities on companies, especially those that will be using the riskiest solutions, on the other.

According to Roman Bieda, AI supplemented with the European Parliament's amendments is more favourable to the development of entrepreneurship, especially SMEs, compared to the European Commission's proposal, given the solutions relating to sandboxes, privileging, facilities for start-ups and provisions that have been improved in the parliamentary version, making certain conditions and requirements enforceable.

Carlo Paolicelli concluded that the *AI Act* should create a system of trust that enhances the competitiveness of European products, and therefore, the Act requires a social element that is currently not present in it.

Kosma Złotowski pointed out that EU legislation on AI must take into account the current specific international situation, the war in Ukraine and Russia's highly aggressive policy, which will not be limited to military action and is certain to use artificial intelligence to introduce unrest in Poland and the European Union.

Session: The **Polish AI strategy: Are we on the right track?**

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

Artificial intelligence is one of the most frequently raised issues when discussing new technologies. Although some AI elements have long been used by companies, e.g. in spam filters or translation tools, there has been huge interest in the first release of language models to the general public (Chat GPT, Bard). In the business context, it is not uncommon to cite figures that demonstrate the great importance of artificial intelligence for the economy. For example, according to IDC, the AI-related Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) will be 18.6% between 2022 and 2026; the market is expected to be worth as much as $900 billion by 2026.

Organiser
ZIPSEE Digital Poland

Moderator
Michał Kanownik, President of ZIPSEE Digital Poland

Panellists
Paweł Lewandowski, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs
dr **Dominika Kaczorowska-Spychalska**, leader of the Research, Innovation and Implementation Subgroup of the Artificial Intelligence Working Group (GRAI) at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, University of Łódź
Mariusz Mielczarek, Head of Public Policy and Government Relations, Central & Eastern Europe, Amazon
Kamila Sotomska, Government Affairs and Public Policy Senior Analyst, Google

Summary
To better respond to the challenges of developing artificial intelligence, in 2020 the Council of Ministers adopted the “Policy for the Development of Artificial Intelligence in Poland”. It is a guidance document indicating short-, medium- and long-term goals in the areas of society, science, business, education, the public sector and international cooperation.

But does this strategy translate into action today? According to the debate moderator Michał Kanownik, it does not. "*In my opinion, this strategy is not working*," said the President of ZIPSEE Digital Poland upon opening the discussion.

Dominika Kaczorowska-Spychalska called for a thorough analysis of what has been done so far in this area. "*Let's map what has been done. Let's consider why not all of it. It would be worthwhile to include other actors in this work, universities, scientific and research institutes, business*", she argued.

Paweł Lewandowski agreed with the need to review the current strategy. He also said that we should devote a lot of energy to ensuring that documents of this kind are shaped based on the values we identify for our country, economy and society. "*This document, whatever it may be, will be the reference for all our subsequent policies that we will create. What is needed here is not ad hoc action, but a reasonable approach,*" he said.

Business representatives also joined the discussion on artificial intelligence and its regulation. Mariusz Mielczarek of Amazon cited data according to which as many as 75% of companies in the European Union will use AI tools by 2030. Today, it is only 20%. To achieve this goal, cooperation between governments, business and science is necessary.

Kamila Sotomska of Google, on the other hand, addressed the thorny problem of over-regulation. "*Let's create new standards only where there is a real need for them, and let's apply well the ones that are already in place,*" she explained. She added that extensive education at every level is a necessity today. This is one of the most important activities for the state and the technology industry.

Debate conclusions:

- Artificial intelligence should be regulated, but wisely and carefully, as over-regulating the sector can have negative consequences.
- It is important to invest in the AI sector, exploit its potential and build a stronger position for Poland on the international stage.
- Universal education is needed – for all ages.
- There is a need to review Poland's AI strategy so that it is aligned with realities and needs.

Session: The role of data in the era of new technologies.

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

The session discussed the types of data categories with the greatest potential for re-use in the development of new technologies. Other issues addressed in its course included data regulation, data quality and the value of data for digital technologies.

Organiser

Ministry of Digital Affairs, Data Management Department

Moderator

Anna Gos, Director of the Data Management Department, Ministry of Digital Affairs

Panellists

Marcin Petrykowski, President of the Management Board of Atende S.A.
dr **Agnieszka Siennicka**, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Wrocław Medical University
Inez Okulska, Director of the Department of Innovation and Technology, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Wojciech Łachowski, manager and coordinator of research and development projects, Institute of Urban and Regional Development

Summary

Data is becoming a target for regulation, especially at the level of the European Union (e.g. Digital Markets Act, Digital Services Act, Data Governance Act). During the panel, participants representing business, academia, government and local administration discussed the role of data in new technologies.

The potential of data in business was highlighted by Marcin Petrykowski. Economic growth and innovation is driven by data. No business model can stay competitive without high-quality data. Universal access to the Internet has democratised data and its wise use allows companies to succeed. All data can be useful and artificial intelligence enables the essence of data to be extracted intelligently to tailor it to specific needs. Competitive advantage is being built by data related to customer Behaviour, through which companies can personalise their products and services, as well as sensory data used in industry and energy sectors.

Agnieszka Siennicka drew attention to the usefulness of medical data, emphasizing that the purpose of medicine was never to collect data, and that this is something that emerged along with its digitisation. It is important to make sure that the medical sector's data reflects the state of the art holistically. Much still needs to be done for medicine to fully utilise the benefits of digital data, as data should be collected reliably with maximum attention. For clinical and scientific research, cooperation between academia and medical entities, such as joint educational workshops for physicians and analysts, is essential. Wrocław Medical University won first place in the Medical Research Agency competition for the creation and development of Regional Medical Centres. The grant it received for the digitisation of clinical trials will enable maximum use to be made of patients' health data.

Inez Okulska acknowledged that technology is not currently an issue when creating specific pattern recognition, prediction or data completion models. The important factors are organising access to data and good data quality. She pointed out that the Ministry of Digital Affairs will soon be opening a pilot programme of Data Excellence Centres, which will include universities, among other actors. The planned *AI Act* and the European Health Data Space focus on data quality and transparency. The legal challenge is the correct selection of data to train AI models to prevent harmful content (e.g. hate speech, drastic content). This requires working with corporations that aggregate large data sets, such as Facebook and Google.

Wojciech Łachowski confirmed the importance of data quality. On average, a medium-sized city collects around 100-150 different data sets, often in the form of non-standardised spreadsheets. The lack of metadata and frequent changes in data collection methodologies are a problem. There is a need for standardisation, not only at the level of a single local authority but at the national level to be able to compare cities with each other. Poland's largest cities often implement data-driven digital solutions to provide high-quality public services. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the provision of high-quality e-services. Nonetheless, evidence-based policy remains an unknown quantity to some Polish cities and policy-making is done in an intuitive rather than data-driven manner.

Participants emphasised the need to ensure data security and openness. This is the reason why sensitive sectors (e.g. banking, medicine) are heavily regulated. Less regulated countries (USA, China) have a competitive advantage over Europe, but at the cost of less security.

Session: DSA and DMA – will they relieve the Polish lawmakers of the need to regulate online platforms?

The goal of the discussion was to allow the participants to present their positions on the need for Polish legislation to work on legal solutions regulating the functioning of online platforms, especially those operating outside the EU but providing services to Polish consumers, taking into account the entry into force of the EU Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA).

Organiser
Chamber of the Digital Economy

Moderator
Bartosz Skowroński, Antitrust Coordinator, Chamber of the Digital Economy, BHR Adwokaci Radomski i Partnerzy sp.p.

Panellists
dr **Magdalena Piech**, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Allegro Group
att. **Witold Chomiczewski**, legislation and legal counsel attorney at the Chamber of the Digital Economy and partner at Lubasz i Wspólnicy - Kancelaria Radców Prawnych sp.k.
Kamil Mirowski, Senior Public Affairs Manager, Zalando

Summary
The moderator outlined the legal background with regard to the application of the DSA and DMA, described by the European Parliament as "landmark digital legislation". Bartosz Skowroński noted that the most relevant solutions introduced by the DSA are those levelling the competitive playing field for online platforms, such as the obligation to appoint a legal representative, the obligation to undergo audits and reporting obligations, and the Chamber had called for them to be introduced before DSA enters into force.

Witold Chomiczewski pointed out that a very important institution introduced by the DSA is the obligation for entities with significant ties to the Union to establish a legal representative within its territory. The legal representative is to be a point of contact within the EU, as well as a partner for the authorities, and the regulation must apply throughout the Union given the competition on the global market. Whether the institutions introduced by the DSA solve all the problems associated with levelling the playing field for competitive e-commerce platforms will depend on how they are applied in practice. It should also be emphasised that work to appoint a digital services coordinator by Poland should be undertaken as soon as possible.
Magdalena Piech pointed out that the implementation of the solutions provided in the DSA will be a major challenge for entities operating in the e-commerce market. Positive elements of this legislation include the extension of the obligation to establish a legal representative to third-country entities offering their services to EU customers. Harmonisation and the fact that the introduced regulation will apply throughout the European Union are also important. Magdalena Piech also pointed out the necessity of drafting Polish regulations to introduce the DSA into the Polish legal system, i.e. with regard to the cooperation of authorities which are to apply the legislation, and the important issue of appointing a digital services coordinator, as well as competent authorities.

Kamil Mirowski pointed out the need for legal predictability and equal treatment in the designation of entities as very large online platforms within the meaning of the DSA, including in particular the need to clarify the rules for defining an online platform as very large. A horizontal approach in the introduction of this legislation was also noted.

Session: **The digital future of the state. Are legal changes keeping pace with technological developments? Are there any restrictions related to digital exclusion?**

The session discussed the following issues: what is the potential of the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS) to support the state in implementing social programmes; what transformations have been made to the IT and organisational infrastructure of the Social Insurance Institution to carry out state-relevant activities during the COVID-19 outbreak and the war in Ukraine; how relationships are built with IT contractors to deliver digital services
with the expected quality and in the required timeframe; what is the role of lawmaking in the process of creating modern digital public services; what actions need to be taken to educate users of all digital services provided by the Social Insurance Institution, from payers to pensioners;

Organiser
Social Insurance Institution (ZUS)

Moderator
Wiesław Paluszyński, President of the Polish Information Processing Society

Panellists

prof. dr hab. **Gertruda Uścińska**, President of the Social Insurance Institution
dr **Adam Góral**, Chair of the Management Board of Asseco Poland S.A.
dr hab. **Dariusz Szostek**, Prof. UŚ, University of Silesia in Katowice
Włodzimierz Owczarczyk, Member of the Management Board of the Social Insurance Institution

Summary

Wiesław Paluszyński welcomed and introduced the participants to the topic of the session, citing data from Poland's latest report as part of the *EU Digital Decade 2023* project. The document draws particular attention to the need to improve the digitisation of Polish public services. In this respect, Gertruda Uścińska outlined the measures that were the primary reason for the success of the Social Insurance Institution in launching new services during the pandemic. According to her, these were the reform of payer contribution settlements (e-contribution) and the launch of the electronic sick leave system (e-ZLA). The former has relieved entrepreneurs of the significant burden of booking contributions to individual accounts or funds and largely eliminated mistakes in transfers to ZUS.

As for the latter, more than 130 million e-ZLAs have been issued and sent to the Social Insurance Institution since 2016. In Poland, medical certificates of temporary inability to work can be issued by around 130,000 doctors and 7,000 medical assistants. Convincing them to work exclusively electronically was a process that allowed the Social Insurance Institution to learn how to work effectively with the users of the services it provides. Having this system in place ensured that when the epidemic began, the state authorities had a reliable source of information on its spread and scope.

Thanks to the modernisation of ZUS systems, it has become possible to streamline the payment of benefits, not only of pensions. About 78% of all ZUS benefit payments are cashless and made directly into the recipients' accounts. For newly awarded long-term benefits and short-term benefits, this proportion is 80–95%. Such efficiency has enabled, among other things, the rapid launch of benefits related to the epidemic and for refugees from Ukraine.

However, this would not have been possible without the ZUS Electronic Services Platform, which has been in development since 2012 and now supports more than 12 million client profiles. In 2022, around two-thirds of all applications were submitted to ZUS electronically. In turn, for 25 years, ZUS has been developing one of the most advanced IT systems with a database of more than 170 terabytes. Each year, ZUS's Comprehensive Information System processes 900 million documents and books contributions worth around PLN 400 billion. This potential has allowed ZUS systems to be used for the social programmes needed during the pandemic and war in Ukraine.

But it was not only the systems in place that enabled this success. Adam Góral stressed that the implementation of the tasks assumed by Asseco Poland S.A., which supports ZUS in creating new services, was only possible thanks to close, reliable, substantive

cooperation between ZUS and the contractor. The trust built up over the years, as well as the company's knowledge base and substantive potential, made it possible to carry out tasks using the so-called agile methodologies. Services were launched in stages, with the developed components immediately handed over for use at ZUS. This required a very high level of discipline from the contractor and excellent cooperation with the ordering party.

Włodzimierz Owczarczyk pointed to the vital aspects of cooperation that have allowed ZUS to maintain a high quality of services. He compared the Social Insurance Institution to a production plant. The key to success in this type of organisation is well-designed processes and procedures and secure supply chains from reliable suppliers and contractors. ZUS has all of this and also uses state-of-the-art technology and AI elements in the development of its systems, and is making its digital services increasingly available to users on mobile platforms.

The discussion also raised the importance of the legal system and the creation of laws, which are essential for being able to carry out tasks effectively. Gertruda Uścińska emphasised that it was close cooperation with legislators and lawmakers that made it possible to adapt the law to enable exclusively electronic services. This was particularly evident during the pandemic period when various important decisions had to be made within hours and it was necessary to have thorough knowledge of the processes, volumes, scales and costs at all times.

Discussing the manner and role of lawmaking, Dariusz Szostek pointed out that the most important element is the determination of ZUS management to build digital solutions, which has enabled them to break down barriers that had once seemed unbreakable. It is never about the law, as the law must adapt to changing realities, but about mentality. There are examples of institutions that are unwilling to launch citizen-friendly digital services despite the legal possibilities. The Covid-19 epidemic was indeed a major breakthrough. Before it, compulsory paper documents were required in many areas. Suddenly, however, it appeared that various important meetings, including parliamentary meetings, could be held remotely. According to Prof. Szostek, the next important stage we are still waiting for is the wider use of modern IT solutions directly in the law-making process.

An important element of the discussion was the readiness of Poland, meaning the Polish state and society, to use digital services. Gertruda Uścińska noted that according to Statistics Poland, 99.9% of Polish households with children have Internet access. More than 200,000 people have linked the mZUS mobile app for parents to their profiles on ZUS's Electronic Services Platform. At the same time, ZUS provides friendly service at its offices for seniors, irrespective of their digital proficiency.

The final element of the panel was the answer to the question: are we ready to become a country making extensive use of digital technologies in public institutions? None of the panelists doubted that we are, and the operation of ZUS in such a difficult period showed that we have the potential to do so in both the public and commercial sectors. It was noted, however, that much more needs to be done to better and more effective use this potential.

The panelists stressed that Polish society is ready to use e-services, regardless of age. However, public institutions should apply more widely open educational programs for those less familiar with digital reality.

Session: Sustainable digital development – economy and society

The following questions were asked during the debate:

- How can innovative solutions effectively support climate action and what role do different actors play in this process?
- What place does the social factor occupy in the process of technological change?
- How can private companies actively contribute to building a more sustainable economy while also supporting the sustainability goals of public administration?
- Which solutions have the potential to significantly contribute to reducing emissions and what are the public expectations in this regard?

During the panel, the use of innovative solutions, including concepts based on AI, big data and circular economy, was discussed by experts representing public administration, academia and business.

Organiser

Cracow University of Technology

Moderator

Agnieszka Rogowiec, Vice Director ESG, PwC Poland

Panellists

Maria Andrzejewska, Director General, UNEP/GRID-Warsaw
Pamela Krzypkowska, Deputy Director, Department of Innovation and Technology, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Ewelina Szczech-Pietkiewicz, university professor, Head of the Department of the European Union at the Institute of International Economics, Collegium of World Economy, SGH Warsaw School of Economics
Grzegorz Suszko, Head of Buyer and Seller Solutions CEE, Visa

Summary

The participants agreed that every actor has a role to play due to the ongoing climate change. Public administration can create and implement good regulations and support the scalability of solutions from other actors. Businesses, on the other hand, can use technology for green transformation and implement the right tools, change their models, create standards, reduce their carbon footprint and monitor and anticipate the impacts of their actions. Finally, national and international institutions such as UNEP/GRID can support the efforts of all these other actors by offering access to technology solutions and datasets from a variety of sources, which is an essential tool for environmental management, especially in emergencies. One example mentioned here was the benefits that arise from using artificial intelligence in reducing pollutant emissions.

In addition, the needs of society – the “S” of the ESG – resounded during the debate. The environmental aspects determine the well-being of society, which in turn, expects clear action from decision-makers and private companies to combat climate change. Digitisation is the tool that can both assist and accelerate this process. Therefore, in their speeches, debate participants stressed the importance of digital inclusion. One of the key groups that require digital support is small and medium-sized entrepreneurs, including female entrepreneurs. In Poland, SMEs are the backbone of the economy and provide jobs for nearly 56% of the workforce. Equipping these entities with digital tools is essential for their growth and expansion. This in turn contributes to the growth of local economies and counteracts social exclusion. A vital element is not only the mere access to the Internet and technological innovations, but above all education, acquiring digital skills and learning about AI-type solutions. Contrary to appearances, half of the people are curious about technological progress and fear of losing their jobs is not omnipresent. It is, therefore, necessary to educate the future workforce for new professions and convince the current workforce to retrain. This is a task not only for governmental organisations but also for larger private sector players.

Business has a very large scope for action in changing consumer attitudes in achieving sustainability goals. Companies across industries can use their reach and products to inspire consumers to change the way they live and buy and to participate in creating a circular economy.

In conclusion, participants in the debate agreed that the human component must be the basis for further change towards building a more sustainable society, with an emphasis on digital inclusion, education and promoting environmental awareness.

YOUTH TRACK

Session: Law in the Metaverse: AI art and creating NFTs in real time

The session was a workshop on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies. It delved into the dynamic intersection of AI-generated art, Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and their pivotal role in shaping the future metaverse landscape. Through comprehensive presentations and interactive discussions, the session provided a holistic understanding of the complex relationships between these phenomena.

Key elements of the workshop:

- AI art and NFTs: The process of real-time art generation by AI and subsequent NFT tokenisation was demonstrated, showing the potential for digital art ownership and monetisation. A digital copy of the image is available online at Polygon using the IPFS mechanism (see on the OpenSea platform).
- Metaverse integration: The integration of the created image with the Cyber Science virtual auditorium on the Spatial platform was presented, revealing the current possibilities and perspectives for the metaverse. The challenges of creating a comprehensive and inclusive meta-world were analysed as well.
- Legal implications: The workshop explored the legal complexities surrounding AI-generated art and NFTs, focusing on issues such as authorship attribution and the legal status of crypto assets. The workshop aimed to dispel many of the myths that have emerged in this area.

Organiser

Jakub Wyczik

Moderator

Jakub Wyczik, University of Silesia in Katowice

Panellists

Maciej Langer, University of Silesia in Katowice
Justyna Doniec-Niezgoda, Jagiellonian University
Maciej Niezgoda, University of Silesia in Katowice
Rafał Wieczerzak, University of Silesia in Katowice

Summary

During the workshop, a survey was conducted on participants' experiences, which revealed important findings. While the majority of respondents use artificial intelligence, their understanding of crypto assets and the metaverse remains fuzzy. The survey highlighted the need for more awareness and education about these new technological aspects, especially their practical use.

As many as 89% of people
use artificial intelligence

Only 17% of people
own a crypto assets

40% of people
claim they have visited the metaverse

Source: Survey results. Own elaboration
Image by macrovector on Freepik

Conclusions and recommendations:

- Improving public education: There is an urgent need for targeted education initiatives to bridge the knowledge and skills gap in the rapidly evolving digital economy, particularly in the areas of digital tokens and the metaverse.
- A clearer legal framework: Policymakers and public authorities must work together to establish a clear and comprehensive legal framework to regulate AI-generated content and virtual goods such as crypto assets to ensure transparency and protect the rights of all stakeholders.

- Broader perception of the metaverse: Encouraging a broader understanding of the metaverse beyond games and online platforms is crucial. Highlighting its potential to revolutionise different sectors, such as education, healthcare and commerce, can foster a more holistic approach to its development and integration.

The transformative potential of AI, NFTs and the metaverse in shaping our digital ecosystem is undeniable. It is imperative that all stakeholders are aware of the changing dynamics and actively participate in creating a sustainable, informed and inclusive technological future. While sometimes outdated regulations stand in the way of development, Poland has the potential to join the global leaders.

Source: Mind map of the workshop participants

Session: Civic participation in the metaverse: New possibilities

The workshop aimed to introduce participants to the potential of metaverse technology in the context of enhancing civic participation. As a virtual world based on Augmented and Virtual Reality technologies, the metaverse offers innovative possibilities that can revolutionise citizen involvement in decision-making processes. During the workshop, participants had the opportunity to explore theoretical knowledge and gain practical skills related to using the metaverse to organise virtual meetings, consultations and citizen votes. The workshop consisted of presentations, case studies, group discussions and practical exercises.

Organiser
Aleksandra Magiera

Session: **Artificial Intelligence in your hands: A workshop on responsible AI use**

Photo: Kamila Dymek

The emergence of AI-based tools like ChatGPT is one of the key developments in today's Internet. However, while their use can bring many benefits both in the digital world and beyond, AI also presents challenges in terms of privacy, copyright and data security.

Organiser

Kamila Dymek

Summary

The workshop session presented important knowledge on how to explore the potential of artificial intelligence in an informed and legal way and use AI-generated content in business and everyday life.

During the workshop, participants were tasked with using popular AI tools for specific purposes. The activities were realistic scenarios that may occur in everyday work. The aim was to raise participants' awareness of the potential risks and dangers of using AI tools and to emphasise the importance of a responsible and ethical approach to their use.

The workshop activities included such risks as:

- disclosure of legally protected information e.g. business secrets,
- data protection breach,
- breach of contractual obligations, including NDAs,
- copyright breach,

- no copyright for the AI-generated content,
- potential social, ethical or discriminatory consequences,
- errors due to data irregularities.

Most of the free AI tools available on the market today do not guarantee the confidentiality of the input data or the protection of personal data, and system vendors reserve the right to exploit user input, e.g. to further train systems. AI use is also associated with many copyright issues, which significantly affect the possibility of further use of its outputs.

The above issues translate into real risks for AI users. Some of these can be significantly mitigated, including by properly preparing the data before entering it into the tool so that it does not contain protected information or information subject to a specific legal regime. Further, using AI tools requires proper oversight and a willingness to take full liability for potential errors. AI-generated outputs should always be verified by humans before use.

The workshop session produced a list of good practices (checklist) for working with AI tools.

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Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

Accompanying events

The following side events were held during the IGF Poland 2023:

- VR film screening: "**Warsaw Rising**" and "**Victoria 1920**".

Photo: Ministry of Digital Affairs

- youth workshop: **Socially responsible digitisation – define the future with us**; organiser: Wrocław Centre for Social Development

photo: Wrocław Centre for Social Development

- student workshop: **Man in the Metaverse – Challenges**; organiser: Ernst & Young Law Zakrzewska and Partners

- youth workshop: **Digital competencies: digital business presentations on the competencies that young people should have when planning their careers**; organiser: Chamber of the Digital Economy

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Recordings of individual thematic tracks (in Polish only):

IGF Poland 2023 keynote speeches and opening debate
https://youtube.com/live/0nqJ_Ms1v_o?feature=share

Technology in the service of society
https://youtube.com/live/InYX1UL0wo4?feature=share

Man on the Internet
https://youtube.com/live/yxfOYBLkrrM?feature=share

Digital Legislation Forum
https://youtube.com/live/khdMeJwEKHE?feature=share

Youth Track
https://youtube.com/live/h3iwkgVqhf4?feature=share

IGF Poland 2023 Summary Speech
https://youtube.com/live/RBWKHICVtUE?feature=share

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For questions on IGF Poland, a national Internet governance initiative, please email: IGFPolska@cyfra.gov.pl.

You are welcome to contact us!