

Subgroup 1 Terms of Reference for 2019

Name of Subgroup (SG)	Internal and External Plurality
SG Chair, NRA	Ciaran Kissane – Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
Background	<p>Ensuring media pluralism remains a key focus across the EU as the rapidly evolving digital environment continues to cause significant disruption to the established media landscape and raises concerns about the quality and accuracy of political discourse. As reflected in the revised AVMSD, the scope of the media landscape is changing and this presents particular challenges in the assessment of challenges to media plurality at a Member State and EU level.</p> <p>In addition, concerns over the veracity of news and information being promoted to EU citizens through online social networks have increased and this has prompted action at a national and international level. This is reflected in the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation (“Code”) and the related EU Action Plan against Disinformation (“Action Plan”).¹</p> <p>In 2018 this ERGA sub-group produced a report that focused on instruments available to regulators to ensure internal plurality in their relevant media environments and possible challenges (including an initial work in the area of disinformation). In 2019, the Subgroup will continue to elaborate on topics from 2018 with additional focus on various aspects of external plurality. However, this will now be balanced with activities arising from the Action Plan which are time sensitive and require priority.</p> <p>Pillar 3 of the Action Plan identifies a role for ERGA in assisting the Commission to monitor the implementation of the commitments given by signatories to the Code and to assess the overall effectiveness of the Code. These activities will be a priority for the Sub-Group in 2019.</p>
Subgroup scope and purpose	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the first half of 2019, the Sub-Group will assist the Commission in the intermediate targeted monitoring of the Code of Practice in the context of the upcoming EU Elections, i.e. it will look, to the extent possible, at the implementation of policies with particular pertinence to the integrity of the electoral processes (scrutiny of ad placement, transparency of political advertising, closure of fake accounts and marking systems for automated bots) for the period February – May 2019. <p>In conjunction with the Commission, the Sub-Group will develop a concrete proposal for this monitoring activity and will ask ERGA Members to join a Task Force that will implement this activity. This Taskforce will be led by AGCOM Italy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Sub-group in consultation with the Commission will develop and implement a plan to support the Commission in the assessment of the overall effectiveness of the Code, to be carried out by the end of 2019. This requires a monitoring of the implementation of all policies relevant to the full set of commitments included in the Code in the period from October 2018 to October 2019. <p>The implementation of this plan may also require specific activities to be undertaken by the Taskforce headed by AGCOM.</p>

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/action-plan-disinformation-commission-contribution-european-council-13-14-december-2018_en

	<p>3. The Sub-Group will also continue to provide a platform for ERGA members to exchange experiences and discuss broader issues around external plurality and related current research projects. In this connection a possible workshop might be organized to communicate/discuss the results of the activities of the SG1 and TF1 in 2019.</p> <p>Reports</p> <p>The output is expected to be a series of reports that will cover areas addressed by the Sub-Group and Task Force in 1 to 3 above.</p> <p>The structure and content of the reports will be determined by the topics covered.</p>
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Deliverables

1.

Deliverable type	Report
Deliverable title	ERGA report on assisting the European Commission in the intermediate monitoring of the Code of Practice on disinformation. This will be based on country reports that will be submitted to the Commission in May by those regulators participating in the TaskForce.
Due date	Plenary meeting in June 2019
Public consultation	No
Publication	Yes

2.

Deliverable type	Report
Deliverable title	ERGA report on assisting the European Commission in the comprehensive assessment of the Code of Practice on disinformation. The structure and content will be based on reports that the activities of Members participating in the Taskforce Phase 2 activities – see point 2 in Scope and purpose above
Due date	Plenary meeting in November 2019
Public consultation	No
Publication	Yes

3.

Deliverable type	Report
Deliverable title	Activity report on the exchange of experiences and broader issues related to external plurality and related current research projects. This exchange will take place at the meeting in September – see workflow below.
Due date	Plenary meeting in November 2019
Public consultation	No
Publication	Yes

Allocated Resources sub group

Active members (drafters)	BAI Ireland, AGCOM Italy, NMHH Hungary, CBR Slovakia, CSA France
Members	CSA and VRM Belgium, CEM Bulgaria, AEM Croatia, CRTA Cyprus, RRTV Czech Republic, SLKS Denmark, TJA Estonia, DLM Germany, ESR Greece, NEPLPADOME Latvia, RTK Lithuania, ALIA Luxembourg, BA Malta, CvdM The Netherlands, KRRIT Poland, ERC Portugal, CNMC Spain, MPRT Sweden, OFCOM UK, Medietilsynet Norway, AMA Albania, AVMU Northern Macedonia, REM Serbia.

Allocated Resources Task Force

Active members (drafters)	AGCOM Italy, NMHH Hungary CBR, Slovakia, BAI Ireland, RTK Lithuania
Members	CSA Belgium, CEM Bulgaria, AEM Croatia, CRTA Cyprus, RRTV Czech Republic, SLKS Denmark, CSA France, DLM Germany, ESR Greece, NEPLPADOME Latvia, ALIA Luxembourg, CvdM The Netherlands, KRRiT, Poland, ERC Portugal, AKOS Slovenia, CNMC Spain, AMA Albania, AVMU Northern Macedonia

Workflow (internal and external milestones)

Date	Action / deliverable	Internal Subgroup only	External Board, CN, Plenary, Publication
Year 2019			
January	Draft Terms of Reference discussed during ERGA Board-meeting	Chair and Chair of the taskforce	Board
January	ERGA Board-meeting	Chair	Board
February	SG Members to comment on ToR	Chair/Active Members/ Members	SG
February 4 th	Meeting of the Subgroup and Task Force	Chair/Active Members/ Members	SG/TF
March 13 th	Meeting of Task Force	Chair of task force /Active Members/ Members	TF
April/May 2019 (TBC)	Meeting of Task Force	Chair of task force /Active Members/ Members	TF
May	Meeting of Sub-Group and Task Force to review Delivery of phase one monitoring and agree plan for phase two	Chair of task force /Active Members/ Members	SG/TF
June	Report to Plenary	Chair/Active Members	Board Plenary
September	Meeting of Sub-group and a back to back workshop to exchange experiences and discuss broader issues related to external plurality and related current research projects	Chair/Active Members/ Members	SG
October	Meeting of SG and Task Force to finalise outcomes of phase two and plenary reports	Chair of task force /Active Members/ Members	SG/TF
October	Report to CN	Chair/ Chair of Taskforce	
November	Report to Plenary	Chair/ Chair of Taskforce	Board
December	Publication on external webpage	Chair/ Chair of Taskforce	Secretariat