ERGA Subgroup 3 – 2023 Terms of Reference (ToR)	
Name of Subgroup	Countering disinformation and strengthening democracy in the digital environment
SG Chair, NRA	Stanislav Matějka, Council for Media Services (Slovakia)
Background	The Subgroup on countering disinformation and strengthening democracy in the digital environment is a continuation of ERGA's long term focus on the challenges that fast-changing informational environment poses to media plurality.
	The work of Subgroup 3 reflects the ambition of ERGA to take an active role in discussions on the future disinformation policy in the EU and becoming a key player in the oversight of the platforms when applying the strengthened Code of Practice.
	In 2021 ERGA was asked by the European Commission to monitor the effectiveness of the Code of Practice in the context of online disinformation about COVID-19. The monitoring results were presented in two reports adopted by ERGA in November and December 2021. In 2022 Subgroup continued its work on disinformation, political advertising and other issues relating to the European Democracy Action Plan. ERGA was participating in the Code of Practice Taskforce dedicated to keeping the Code future-proof and fit-for-purpose by establishing Subgroups focusing on various challenges.
	As stated in the ERGA Work Programme 2023, the Subgroup will continue its work on disinformation, political advertising and the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation. The Subgroup will furthermore advise and provide assistance to the European Commission when requested. Where necessary, the Subgroup will liaise with Subgroup 1 and Subgroup 2 to inform and share positions on interconnected issues – specifically, but not exclusively, in relation to the Digital Services Act and the European Media Freedom Act. The Subgroup will operate in workstreams focusing on specific topics, such as monitoring the Code of Practice on Disinformation, supporting the participation/representation of ERGA in the Code of Practice on Disinformation Permanent Taskforce and following the progress on the proposal of the Regulation on transparency and targeting of political advertising. The Subgroup will continue to monitor the evolution of NRAs' competencies in countering disinformation.
	Moreover, given the importance of media literacy for democratic discourse and debate, the group will collaborate, where relevant, with the ERGA Action Group on media literacy.
Subgroup scope and purpose	The Subgroup's general purpose is:
	1. to support and advise the Commission in the effective implementation of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation and support participation in the activities of the Permanent Taskforce.
	2. to prepare capacities for monitoring of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation and to prepare a report on its implementation in 2023, contributing to the Commission's assessment,
	3. to contribute to the discussions of the co-legislators for the adoption of the Regulation on transparency and targeting of political advertising and to its

	future implementation, and to follow the evolution of NRAs' competences in the light of the forthcoming legislation. To that end, ERGA intends to publish a new position paper once the positions of the Council and Parliament are published.
	4. to monitor the evolution of NRAs' competencies in countering disinformation,
	5. to organise up to two workshops/meetings (at least one of which will be virtual), including with relevant stakeholders, in particular, dedicated to the co-regulatory framework established by the DSA to tackle disinformation,
	6. to follow the European Democracy Action Plan implementation, through the participation in stakeholder forums, research projects, public consultations and legislative processes regarding topics related to the SG scope,
	7. to coordinate with Subgroup 1 and Subgroup 2 to inform and share expertise on interconnected issues, including on the Digital Services Act and the European Media Freedom Act.

Subgroup Deliverables

Deliverable 1	**Deliverable type**	SG3 Workshop dedicated to the monitoring of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation
	Deliverable title	TBD
	Due date	March 2023 (TBC)
	Publication	No
Deliverable 2	**Deliverable type**	Report on the monitoring of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation (results of monitoring /assessing baseline reports)
	Deliverable title	TBD
	Due date	1st Plenary
	Publication	Yes
Deliverable 3	**Deliverable type**	New position paper on the Regulation on the transparency and targeting of political advertising
	Deliverable title	TBD
	Due date	March 2023 (TBC)
	Publication	Yes
Deliverable 4	**Deliverable type**	SG3 Workshop dedicated to the role of NRAs under the Regulation on the transparency and targeting of political advertising (optional)
	Deliverable title	TBD
	Due date	TBD (after adoption of the legislation)
	Publication	No
	Deliverable type	Report on NRAs' competencies and analytical capacities in countering disinformation

Deliverable 5	Deliverable title	TBD
	Due date	2nd Plenary
	Publication	No

Deliverable 6	Deliverable type	Report on the monitoring of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation (results of monitoring of the first reports)
	Deliverable title	TBD
	Due date	2nd Plenary
	Publication	Yes

Participation by ERGA members / observers

Drafters	
Members	Chair: Stanislav Matějka Council for Media Services (SK)
Observers	
ARCOM (France) NMHH (Hungary) AGCOM (Italy)	
KommAustria (Austria) CSA, VRM (Belgium) CEM (Bulgaria) CRTA (Cyprus) RRTV (Czechia) DLM (Germany) TTJA (Estonia) NCRTV (Greece) KAVI (Finland) AEM (Croatia) BAI (Ireland) NEPLP (Latvia) RTK (Lithuania) ALIA (Luxembourg) BA (Malta) CvdM (Netherlands) KRRiT (Poland) ERC (Portugal) AKOS (Slovenia) CNMC (Spain) MPRT (Sweden) IMC (Iceland)* NMA (Norway)*	
AMA (Albania) CRA (Bosnia & Herzegovina) AVMU (North Macedonia) OFCOM (Switzerland) RTUK (Turkey)	

* Without voting rights (Article 1 of the ERGA Rules of Procedure)

Workflow for Subgroup 3 (internal and external milestones)

Date	Action/deliverable	Internal Subgroup only	External CN, Plenary, Publication
2023			
February	1st SG3 Meeting	All members	
March	SG3 Workshop dedicated to the monitoring of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation	All members	
March	Dissemination of the first questionnaire on NRA competencies, foreign manipulation and disinformation narratives	All members	
April	2nd SG3 Meeting	All members	
May	Finalise draft Report on the monitoring of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation (results of monitoring/assessment of baseline reports)	Drafters	Publication
June	**ERGA plenary meeting**	Chair	CN and Plenary
September	3rd SG3 Meeting	All members	
September	Dissemination of the second questionnaire on NRA competencies, foreign manipulation and disinformation narratives	All members	
November	Finalise draft Report on the monitoring of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation (results of monitoring of the first reports)	Drafters	Publication
November	Finalise draft Report on NRA competencies, foreign manipulation and disinformation narratives	All members	
December	**ERGA Plenary meeting**	Chair	CN and Plenary