

Digital Democracy and Data Governance in the European Union | Project Guidelines

Agenda: Model United Nations (MUN)-style discussion on ‘Extending the framework of Europe’s data governance to a global scale’. Debate this from the frames of concepts, practical implementation, and future implications.

Scope: GDPR, EU’s Data Governance Act, Digital Services Act / Digital Markets Act.

Format: Specifics will be explained in a short tutorial. Actual MUN session of ~3 hours.

Grading Plan:

1. Position Paper (30%): Each team will submit a position paper before the MUN. This will outline the general outlook on the topic, and their understanding of it. This should *not* be a generic summary of the debate. It should reflect their country/organisation’s perspectives.
Word Count: 1500 - 2000 words.
2. MUN session (40%): The 3-hour session will be moderated by the discussion chair. Topics will be raised by the chair.
Each team must speak as the representative of the entity they have been assigned. Personal views, generic opinions, summaries of debates are not required. Bring about your country/organisation’s incentives, motives and opinions. Make sure what you propose and the statements you make align with the previous statements of the country/organisation.
All team members must speak at least once. 2 or more members can speak within the same moderated caucus.
3. Biased Summary (30%): Exactly as the name suggests, provide a perspective on the discussion that happened. Note; it is a *biased* summary. That means you can bring about your perspective. For example, instead of saying, “First the session opened. Then the delegate of Mars said Earthlings are not welcome. Then the delegate of Jupiter said the Sun is getting hot.”, it is better to report, “The delegate of Mars said that Earthlings are not welcome onto their planet. This is clearly racist against the human race, and fails to uphold long-established standards of inter-Solar-System cooperation.” This is what a biased summary means. Bring out your representing entity’s points of view.
Word count: 1500 - 2000 words.

Topics for Discussion:

- What are the principles reflected in the EU's legislation? Can they be extended to the world?
- What infrastructure / mechanisms do these acts demand from the actors in the data economy?
Is it feasible to expect them from the world? (Special focus on the Global South)
- What should this global data governance regime look like? How would it be arranged (think hierarchy, method of election, conflict resolution)?
- What are potential roadblocks in the implementation? Suppose that all the relevant entities agree and this regime is put in place. What hypothetical issues can arise because of this?

(other topics can be brought up after reading the position papers submitted.)

Team Size: 4

Number of Teams: 15

Each team represents one of the actors mentioned below. They put forward their own perspectives on the topic detailed below, making sure that they are in line with their self-interests, past statements, overall policy practices, etc.

Countries/Organisations:

1. United Kingdom
2. France
3. Germany
4. United States of America
5. China
6. India
7. Russia
8. South Africa
9. Japan
10. X Corp (formerly Twitter)
11. Amazon
12. Meta
13. OpenAI (Microsoft)
14. Google
15. Apple
16. TikTok

Deadlines:

Position Paper: 11 March 2025

Presentations: Week of 24th - 29th March 2025

Biased Summary Paper: 12 April 2025