

Child protection online: why are member states going their own way?

ONLINE TRAINING COURSE

MODULE 1
23 APRIL
2026



Gaps, overlaps and enforcement challenges between
the EU framework and growing national initiatives

1986 | 2026



online
training

Included in
Mastering European
media regulation online course

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Why this training & why now?

The protection of children online has become one of the most politically sensitive and contested areas of digital regulation in Europe.

While the EU has put in place a **horizontal regulatory framework applicable to online platforms**, many member states are adopting **additional and diverging national measures**, ranging from **social media bans, age verification for adult services, and parental control on devices**. This surge in national initiatives raises questions about the **effectiveness, coherence and enforceability** of the existing EU framework.

At the same time, **enforcement under the Digital Services Act (DSA)** is gaining momentum, and **rapid technological developments**, including the use of **artificial intelligence (AI)**, are creating **new risks and regulatory challenges**.

In this context, understanding **why member states are “going their own way”** and **how national initiatives interact with EU law** has become essential for platforms, media actors and regulators alike.

What you will gain from this training:

By attending this training, participants will:

- Gain a clear overview of national initiatives aimed at protecting children online across Europe
- Understand the scope and limits of the EU regulatory framework applicable to online child protection
- Analyse how the DSA is being enforced in practice in this area
- Identify the main drivers behind recent initiatives at national level
- Assess the challenges raised by new technologies, including AI
- Understand the implications for platforms, media services and regulators

The training combines regulatory analysis with concrete examples across Europe.

Who should attend and why?

This course is designed for professionals dealing with regulatory, legal or policy issues related to online platforms and media services.

It is particularly relevant for:

- Social media platforms and online intermediaries
- Media service providers
- Regulatory and legal experts working on digital or media regulation
- National authorities, ministries and regulators involved in child protection and online safety

The course is suitable both for those seeking a structured overview and for those wishing to deepen their understanding of enforcement and national regulatory approaches.



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DETAILED OVERVIEW

This training course is structured around the following key topics:

Why online child protection has become a regulatory priority

This section explains why the protection of children online has moved to the top of the political and regulatory agenda in Europe, and how societal concerns, platform practices and technological developments are shaping regulatory responses.

Overview of national initiatives in Europe

Initiatives by member states to protect children online (beyond the EU-level approach) are growing. This section provides an overview of recent national initiatives, highlighting common trends, divergences and the rationale behind different approaches.

The EU regulatory framework for online child protection

This part of the course explains the complex EU framework that governs the protection of children online. It also identifies potential gaps or limits that are fuelling national action, and looks at expected future developments

Focus on the Digital Services Act and its enforcement

This section examines the rules of the DSA and its implementing guidelines that focus on the protection of minors. It also covers EU enforcement cases and identifies challenges, including those arising from AI-driven developments.

Fragmentation, coherence and legal uncertainty

The complexity of the EU framework and diverging national rules that apply on top raise questions of consistency, efficiency and legal certainty. This section analyses the implications for industry players and regulators.

COURSE TIMINGS

The course consists of
a 3-hour online interactive session.

For future course dates
and the detailed agenda,
please visit our website :



[cullen-international.com](https://www.cullen-international.com)

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Laura Sboarina, *Principal Analyst*,

follows EU regulation affecting the media sector, specialising on television and online video services. She also follows the media market in Italy. Laura joined Cullen International in 2011, previously representing in Brussels the European association of television and radio advertising sales houses (EGTA). She also worked at the Italian public service broadcaster, RAI.



Michèle Ledger, *Head of Media*,

leads Cullen International's Media regulatory intelligence service. She worked for many years in the digital economy practice and has extensive knowledge of the implementation of the EU frameworks at national level across Europe. She is a researcher at the CRIDS research centre of the University of Namur where she also lectures on the regulatory aspects of online platforms at the postmaster degree course (DTIC). She joined Cullen International in 1998, previously working as a lawyer in Brussels.



Jérôme Dheur, *Principal Analyst*,

follows EU regulation affecting the internet and media sectors. He also follows the television market in France. Jérôme is lead author of the Media Cross-Country Analysis report covering Western Europe. He is leading the development of a similar report covering Latin America. Jérôme joined the company in 1999.



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The training organiser

Cullen International helps organisations make effective decisions on policy, regulation and law in the digital world.

Founded in Brussels in 1986, we've built our reputation on expertise and neutrality, as well as our ability to convey complex information in a concise way. This has won us the trust of the regulators as well as those organisations shaped by regulation in over 90 countries.

Today, our network of experts spans the globe. We systematically monitor, analyse, and report on key developments in the telecoms, media and postal sectors, and in the wider digital economy, on global technology trends, on sustainability issues, and on competition law.

Our services are complemented by our regulatory training offer. Our renowned courses are attended by a cross section of policy makers and industry representatives.

Everything we do is underpinned by the same commitment to our core values: neutrality, accuracy, clarity, expertise and efficiency.

Trusted by policy makers and industry professionals worldwide

> 3500

participants from
over 100 different countries
trained by Cullen International
since 2011

Over 95%

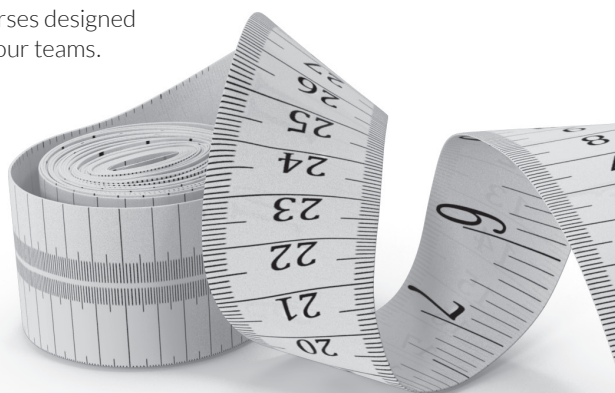
of past participants
would recommend
our courses

Let us create the perfect training course for you

Looking for a training course tailored to your organisation's specific needs?

Cullen International offers tailored training courses designed to address the regulatory challenges faced by your teams.

Contact us to explore how we can design a training programme that fits your needs.



For more information



On the programme, contact

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On administrative questions, contact

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events@cullen-international.com

How to register?

Please register by filling in the respective registration form on our website:

www.cullen-international.com

Fees

Fee per delegate

Fee for Cullen International subscribers € 847 (€ 700,00 VAT excluded)

Fee for Non-subscribers € 1,089 (€ 900,00 VAT excluded)

- **10% discount** for multiple registrations from the same organisation
- **Belgian VAT (21%)** is chargeable on all bookings
- Payment can be made by bank transfer or by credit card and in all cases **before the event starts**. In the absence of payment by the due date, Cullen International reserves the right to reallocate place.

Training courses and conferences general terms and conditions

A. Eligibility

Cullen International's training courses are designed for the use of government entities, regulators, communications service providers or manufacturers. We reserve the right to offer access to our training courses only to selected organisations. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding your eligibility.

B. Limited number of delegates

To ensure a high-quality training/conference experience, the number of participants in the training/conference programme will be limited. Cullen International reserves the right to refuse registrations once the maximum number of participants is reached.

C. Cancellations / substitutions

Cancellations must be made in writing. Full refunds will be paid only if cancellations are received by Cullen International 30 days before the start of the training course/conference. There will be no refund in case of cancellations within 30 days before the start of the training course/conference. Delegate substitutions can be made at any time. They must be communicated to Cullen International before the start of the course.

D. Non-attendance

In the event of non-attendance, full training course/conference fees will remain payable, and no refunds will be paid.

E. Changes to programme, venue, date or format

Cullen International reserves the right to make changes to the programme, the venue, the presenter and the training format.

Cullen International also reserves the right to cancel or re-schedule the training course/conference due to insufficient number of participants. Delegates will be notified in good time and will be entitled to refund of the fee if the training course/conference is cancelled or is changed to a date which is not convenient for the delegate.

In case the training course cannot be organised onsite, Cullen International reserves the right to change the course format to an online course. Participants will be notified in due time. If the course is changed to an online format, Cullen International will not reimburse any travel or accommodation costs. It is strongly recommended that participants include a cancellation insurance when booking travels and accommodation.

F. Invoicing and Payment conditions

Registrations will only be effective after payment receipt and payment must be done before the event takes place. Cullen International reserves the right to refuse attendance of a participant whose invoice has not been paid prior to the event. Cullen International also reserves the right to refuse registrations to members of organisations who had registered participants to previ-

ous events and not paid their invoices. The delegate shall provide, while registering to attend an event, all requested information necessary for the issue of the invoices. All invoices are payable in total, for the amount invoiced including the taxes stated on each invoice (VAT). No withholding for tax or administrative reasons will be accepted.

G. Data protection

Your personal data will be used for the purpose of organising the training course or conference. Cullen International will also subsequently use such data to inform you of its future training programmes and other activities or services, unless you opt out by sending us an email. Your personal data will not be communicated to any third party.

H. Confidentiality and Copyright

All Cullen International training/conference material is subject to normal copyright conditions. Any copy is subject to prior written authorisation from Cullen International. The training/conference material is for the delegate's own use and may not be disclosed to any third party. It shall be treated with a high-level of confidentiality, in the same way as the delegate protects its own confidential information.