GIG-ARTS
Organisational and Governance Framework

1. Mission and activities

GIG-ARTS is an international community of scholars working on Internet governance and the broader transformations of digital governance. It promotes multidisciplinary research, advanced academic training, scholarly cooperation, and dialogue among academic, institutional, technical, civil-society, and policy communities.

GIG-ARTS organises two annual events:

1. **The European Multidisciplinary Conference on Global Internet Governance Actors, Regulations, Transactions and Strategies**, which provides an international forum for presenting and discussing original research on Internet and digital governance;
2. **The GIG-ARTS School on Digital Governance**, the educational programme of the GIG-ARTS community, which offers advanced and multidisciplinary training for doctoral researchers, early-career scholars, professionals, and other participants interested in digital governance.

GIG-ARTS operates through the voluntary contribution of its members. Its activities are organised through permanent working teams and annual ad hoc teams responsible for the Conference and the School.

The organisational model is based on five principles:

- academic independence and pluralism;
- collegial and distributed leadership;
- operational autonomy combined with accountability;
- disciplinary, geographical, and generational inclusion;
- continuity and institutional memory across successive editions.

2. Participation in the working teams

Each team consists of a **Lead** and a group of **Affiliates**.

The Lead coordinates the team's activities, defines its annual priorities in consultation with its members, convenes meetings, distributes responsibilities, and reports to the Steering Committee. Team Leads are also responsible for documenting activities and ensuring an effective handover when responsibilities change.

Affiliates are members of the GIG-ARTS community who contribute to one or more areas of the team's work. Their involvement may vary according to their expertise, availability, and the activities planned during the year. Members may be affiliated with more than one team.

Teams operate autonomously within their respective mandates while coordinating with the Chair and the other teams whenever activities overlap.

Permanent Working Teams

3. Institutional Affairs & Partnerships

Lead: Nicola Palladino, University of Salerno
Affiliates: Samuele Fratini, CNRS France

Mandate

The Institutional Affairs & Partnerships Team develops and maintains GIG-ARTS' relationships with universities, research centres, international organisations, professional associations, technical bodies, public institutions, civil-society organisations, and responsible private-sector partners.

Functions

The Team:

- develops GIG-ARTS' institutional partnership strategy;
- maintains relations with existing partner organisations;
- identifies potential academic, institutional, and knowledge partners;
- supports the negotiation of cooperation agreements, institutional endorsements, co-hosting arrangements, and memoranda of understanding;
- coordinates relations with the institutions hosting the Conference and the School;
- supports the identification of future venues and institutional hosts;
- develops sponsorship and resource-mobilisation opportunities in coordination with the Chair and the relevant annual event team;
- ensures that partnerships and sponsorship arrangements respect GIG-ARTS' academic independence, pluralism, and educational mission;

- maintains an updated record of institutional contacts, agreements, partnership opportunities, and ongoing collaborations;
- facilitates cooperation between GIG-ARTS and other scholarly networks, research projects, and academic initiatives.

4. Communication

Lead: Carlos Fonseca Diaz, Ghent University/UNU-CRIS
Affiliates: Armando Antonio Ferrara, University of Salerno; Chiara Spiniello, University of Bremen

Mandate

The Communication Team is responsible for GIG-ARTS' public communication, visual identity, digital presence, and the dissemination of information concerning its activities.

Functions

The Team:

- develops and implements an annual communication strategy;
- manages the GIG-ARTS website, mailing lists, newsletters, and social-media channels;
- maintains a coherent visual identity across the Conference, the School, and other GIG-ARTS initiatives;
- prepares and disseminates calls for papers, calls for applications, programmes, announcements, and institutional news;
- coordinates communication campaigns for the Conference and the School with the relevant annual teams;
- produces or supervises promotional materials, graphics, interviews, reports, and audiovisual content;
- manages relations with academic and specialist media when appropriate;
- documents the activities and outcomes of GIG-ARTS events;
- maintains a digital archive of programmes, publications, photographs, recordings, and communication materials;
- monitors the reach and effectiveness of GIG-ARTS communication activities in cooperation with the Impact and Strategic Development Team.

5. Impact and Strategic Development

Lead: Katalin Feher, Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest; KU Leuven, Leuven
Affiliates: Orsolya Gulyas, VUB Brussels; Stephanie Teeuwen, VUB Brussels; Nicola Palladino, University of Salerno.

Mandate

The Impact and Strategic Development Team supports the long-term consolidation of GIG-ARTS by assessing its academic, educational, institutional, and societal impact and identifying opportunities for its future development.

Functions

The Team:

- contributes to the definition and periodic revision of GIG-ARTS' strategic priorities;
- develops indicators for assessing the academic, educational, geographical, and institutional impact of GIG-ARTS activities;
- collects and analyses data on participation, disciplinary and geographical diversity, publications, partnerships, and audience reach;
- coordinates evaluation surveys for the Conference and the School;
- monitors the professional and academic development of former participants, particularly School alumni and early-career researchers attending the Conference;
- prepares an annual impact and development report;
- identifies opportunities for new projects, publications, training activities, funding schemes, and collaborative initiatives;
- supports the development of special issues, edited volumes, policy outputs, and other follow-up activities arising from GIG-ARTS events;
- assesses the sustainability of the organisational and financial model;
- provides evidence-based recommendations on future themes, formats, locations, and partnerships;
- preserves institutional memory by maintaining records of decisions, evaluations, and lessons learned from successive editions.

6. Advocacy & Outreach

Lead: Sara Concetta Santoriello, University of Naples Federico II
Affiliates:

Mandate

The Advocacy & Outreach Team expands the reach of the GIG-ARTS community and strengthens its engagement with academic networks, public institutions, international organisations, technical communities, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders.

Its advocacy function concerns the promotion of independent, multidisciplinary, and evidence-based research on digital governance. It does not imply alignment with any political party, government, company, or specific regulatory position.

Functions

The Team:

- promotes GIG-ARTS within relevant academic, professional, technical, and policy communities;
- develops targeted outreach strategies for regions, institutions, disciplines, and groups that remain underrepresented;
- supports the participation of doctoral researchers, early-career scholars, and colleagues from the Global South;
- maintains relations with GIG-ARTS alumni and encourages their involvement in subsequent activities;
- represents GIG-ARTS at conferences, workshops, network meetings, and other relevant events, in coordination with the Chair;
- facilitates dialogue between academic research and policy, technical, civil-society, and professional communities;
- promotes the public dissemination and translation of GIG-ARTS research through policy briefs, public discussions, webinars, and accessible formats;
- supports the circulation of calls for papers and applications through partner networks and targeted channels;
- identifies emerging communities, debates, and geographical areas with which GIG-ARTS should engage;
- contributes to building an open, diverse, and internationally balanced community.

Any public statement issued in the name of GIG-ARTS must be approved by the Steering Committee.

Annual Ad Hoc Teams

Two ad hoc teams are established each year to organise the annual Conference and the School. They work in close cooperation with the permanent teams and include representatives of the host institutions whenever appropriate.

Each annual team begins its work sufficiently in advance of the relevant event and concludes its mandate after submitting a final report, completing the financial and organisational follow-up, and transferring the relevant documentation to the permanent teams.

7. GIG-ARTS Conference Team

Edition and location: 2027 Tallinn University
Co-Chairs: Tiina Pajuste, Tallinn University
Organizing Team: [Names and affiliations]

Mandate

The Conference Team is responsible for the scientific and organisational coordination of the annual GIG-ARTS Conference.

Functions

The Team:

- develops the conference theme and call for papers;
- prepares the organisational timeline and division of responsibilities;
- establishes and coordinates the Programme Committee;
- manages the submission, peer-review, selection, and notification processes;
- develops the academic programme, including panels, keynotes, roundtables, and special sessions;
- invites keynote speakers, chairs, discussants, and institutional participants;
- coordinates registration, venue arrangements, accessibility, catering, technical services, and online participation where applicable;
- prepares the conference budget and monitors expenditure in cooperation with the host institution;
- coordinates partnerships and sponsorship arrangements with the Institutional Affairs & Partnerships Team;
- works with the Communication Team on the conference website, promotional campaign, programme, and participant information;
- supports visa documentation and practical information for international participants;
- promotes environmentally and socially responsible organisational practices;
- coordinates post-conference publications and other academic outputs;
- collects participant feedback and provides the Impact and Strategic Development Team with the information required for evaluation;
- submits a final organisational and financial report and ensures the transfer of documentation to the following edition.

8. GIG-ARTS School Team

Edition and location: 2027, Salerno
Director: Mauro Santaniello, University of Salerno
Managing Director: Chiara Spiniello, University of Bremen
Organizing Team: Armando Antonio Ferrara, University of Salerno; Carlos Fonseca Diaz, Ghent University. UNU-CRIS; Nicola Palladino, University of Salerno

Mandate

The School Team is responsible for the scientific, educational, and organisational coordination of the annual GIG-ARTS School on Digital Governance.

Functions

The Team:

- defines the annual theme, learning objectives, and educational approach;
- develops the curriculum and programme;
- identifies and invites lecturers, facilitators, moderators, and practitioners;
- coordinates lectures, seminars, roundtables, practical activities, and participant-led sessions;
- prepares and disseminates the call for applications;
- establishes transparent criteria for the selection of participants;
- manages registration fees, scholarships, fee waivers, and other forms of financial support;
- promotes geographical, disciplinary, professional, and gender diversity among participants and faculty;
- coordinates travel, accommodation, venues, catering, teaching facilities, and social activities;
- provides participants and faculty with the necessary organisational and academic information;
- prepares teaching materials, certificates, and evaluation instruments;
- coordinates partnerships with universities, international organisations, civil-society organisations, technical bodies, and knowledge partners;
- works with the Communication Team on outreach, promotion, and documentation;
- maintains relations with School alumni and encourages their involvement in the wider GIG-ARTS community;
- evaluates the educational outcomes of the School in cooperation with the Impact and Strategic Development Team;
- submits a final organisational, educational, and financial report.

Governance Bodies

9. Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board is a collegial body supporting the scientific quality, international visibility, and strategic orientation of both the GIG-ARTS Conference Series and the GIG-ARTS School on Digital Governance.

Its composition includes both external members and members of the Steering Committee. Membership remains open to colleagues willing to contribute actively to its work, taking into account scientific standing, disciplinary diversity, geographical balance, career-stage diversity, and commitment to the development of GIG-ARTS.

Functions

The Scientific Advisory Board:

- advises on the scientific priorities and long-term academic development of GIG-ARTS;
- contributes to identifying emerging themes in Internet and digital governance;
- advises the Conference and School teams on annual themes and programme development;
- supports the identification of speakers, lecturers, Programme Committee members, and partner institutions;
- promotes the international visibility and academic recognition of GIG-ARTS;
- advises on research collaborations, publications, special issues, and other scholarly outputs;
- supports relations with academic communities and international research networks;
- provides independent advice on partnerships that may affect the scientific identity or academic independence of GIG-ARTS;
- periodically reviews the scientific development of the Conference and the School.

The Board has an advisory rather than executive function. Its recommendations are considered by the Steering Committee and the relevant working teams.

Members:

Andrea Beccalli — ICANN
Edoardo Celeste — Dublin City University, Dublin
Katalin Feher — Ludovika University of Public Service, Budapest; KU Leuven, Leuven
Marianne Franklin — University of Groningen, Groningen
Jeanette Hofmann — Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society, Berlin
Joanna Kulesza — University of Lodz, Lodz
Francesca Musiani — CNRS France, Paris
Riccardo Nanni — CNRS France, Paris
Niels ten Oever — University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam
Nicola Palladino — University of Salerno, Salerno
Claudia Padovani — University of Padova, Padova
Daniela Piana — University of Bologna, Bologna
Julia Pohle — Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin
Dennis Redeker — University of Bremen, Bremen
Mauro Santaniello — University of Salerno, Salerno; UNU-CRIS, Bruges
Katharine Sarikakis — University of Vienna, Vienna
Jan Aart Scholte — Leiden University, The Hague
Chiara Spiniello — University of Bremen, Bremen; University of Salerno, Salerno

10. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is the executive and coordinating body of GIG-ARTS. It is composed of the Leads of all permanent and annual ad hoc teams.

Its composition therefore includes:

- the GIG-ARTS Chair;
- the GIG-ARTS Treasurer;
- the Lead of Institutional Affairs & Partnerships;
- the Lead of Communication;
- the Lead of Impact and Strategic Development;
- the Lead of Advocacy & Outreach;
- the Co-Chairs of the annual Conference;
- the Co-Directors and the Managing Director of the annual School.

The Steering Committee may invite other members of the GIG-ARTS community, representatives of host institutions, or members of the Scientific Advisory Board to participate in specific meetings without voting rights.

Functions

The Steering Committee:

- defines the overall strategy and annual priorities of GIG-ARTS;
- approves the annual calendar and coordinates activities across the different teams;
- establishes the annual Conference and School teams and confirms their Leads;
- ensures consistency between the Conference, the School, and the permanent activities of GIG-ARTS;
- approves major institutional partnerships, sponsorship arrangements, and public statements;
- oversees the responsible use of financial and organisational resources;
- addresses overlaps or conflicts between team responsibilities;
- monitors the implementation of agreed activities and deadlines;
- considers the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board;
- approves annual reports and major proposals for organisational development;
- ensures continuity, transparency, and effective handovers between successive teams and event editions.

The Steering Committee meets online at least quarterly and may hold additional meetings when required. It normally works by consensus. Where consensus cannot be reached, decisions may be taken by a simple majority of its members.

11. Treasurer

Treasurer: Samuele Fratini, CNRS France, Paris

The Treasurer oversees the financial management and sustainability of GIG-ARTS activities. The Treasurer supports the Steering Committee in preparing annual budgets, monitoring revenues and expenditures, and ensuring transparent and accountable use of financial resources. The role coordinates financial arrangements related to the annual Conference, the School, sponsorships, scholarships, partnerships, and other GIG-ARTS initiatives, working closely with the Chair and the relevant activity leads. The Treasurer also contributes to fundraising and financial planning, maintains appropriate records of financial transactions and commitments, and periodically reports to the Steering Committee on the financial position of the network.

12. Chair

The activities of GIG-ARTS and of the Steering Committee are coordinated by a Chair selected from among the members of the Steering Committee.

Chair: Mauro Santaniello, University of Salerno, Salerno; UNU-CRIS, Bruges

The Chair:

- convenes and chairs Steering Committee meetings;
- prepares meeting agendas and ensures follow-up on agreed decisions;
- coordinates the activities of the permanent and annual teams without replacing their operational autonomy;
- supports cooperation and information exchange among the teams;
- monitors the implementation of the annual work plan;
- represents GIG-ARTS in institutional and public contexts or delegates this role to the relevant Team Lead;
- acts as the principal liaison with the Scientific Advisory Board;
- facilitates the resolution of organisational disagreements;
- ensures that activities remain consistent with the mission, values, and strategic priorities of GIG-ARTS.

The Chair exercises a coordinating rather than hierarchical role. Responsibility for individual activities remains with the relevant Team Leads, while strategic decisions remain collegial and are taken by the Steering Committee.