

The first meeting of the Digital Clearinghouse was attended by authorities with regulatory responsibilities for various aspects of the digitised economy. There were shared concerns about information and power disparities between individuals and the service providers whom they rely on. Discussions took place on common short and longer term issues including data portability, fake news and voter manipulation, the emergence of attention markets and opacity of algorithms which determine how personal data are collected and used. There were also discussions on the overlap between areas of law.

Four areas of overlap or possible gaps in regulation were discussed: unfair or harmful terms and conditions for digital platforms, security considerations for connected things and apps, the 'fake news' phenomenon and the longer term impact of big tech sector mergers. These areas could be focus for the next meeting which will take place on the autumn. Participants started the discussion on identifying principles for cooperation based on past experiences in order to build scenarios and options for responding to those scenarios. A secure communication channel should be established for authorities wishing to engage in digital clearinghouse discussions.

All Clearinghouse discussions take place without prejudice to the competences of independent authorities and existing networks.