

# DSA Research Network's Circle of Friends

## Recap of the 4th meeting

**Tuesday, 28 April 2026, 3.00-3.45 pm (CET)**

The following provides a summary of the meeting's discussion:

### 1 Updates

- IViR reported on the DSA Conference 2026, which brought together 270 participants across a broad stakeholder spectrum and featured around 100 paper presentations, underlining the rapid growth of the field.
- HBI highlighted ongoing work on the interaction between the DSA and other regulatory instruments, including recent analysis of the Russmedia ruling, and indicated a future research focus on the intersection of the DSA and AI regulation.
- Across project partners (HIIG, IViR, HBI), a Learning Call Series on DSA-related topics is planned for this year, alongside an upcoming two-part blog post on reform proposals and the 2027 evaluation.

### 2 DSA evaluation 2027

- Discussion on the upcoming 2027 evaluation of the DSA suggests that the process is still in an early and relatively low-visibility phase. The European Commission (DG CONNECT) has begun organising structured dialogues, including an initial call following an application process, offering stakeholders the opportunity for direct exchange. At the same time, there is a perception that the Commission is downplaying the significance of the evaluation and is unlikely to foreground it publicly. National-level debates continue to evolve in parallel, including increasing attention to minimum age requirements for social media use and recent expert discussions in Germany pointing to limited scope for national legislation on youth protection due to the DSA's harmonising effect.
- Overall, the evaluation is not yet a central element of organisational planning across the network. While it is on the radar, most actors are not actively preparing for it at this stage, citing uncertainty about its scope and timeline as well as competing priorities. Current focus areas include gender-based digital violence, data access under Article 40, and age-related regulatory questions.