

Action Coalition for Meaningful Transparency:

Potential topics and events

This document is a list of possible events for the ACT to hold in upcoming months. We expect most events to take the form of a web panel, with a short discussion note circulated beforehand and a summary of the proceedings circulated afterwards. In some cases **we may be able to append them to an existing event or conference**, allowing for different formats and the possibility of in-person attendance.

We do not expect to be able to hold all or even most of these events; this list is provided for steering group input into prioritisation and goal-setting. *The 'timing' and 'importance' columns represent the estimation of the project lead, and should not be taken as statements of ACT policy.*

For more information about any of these prospective events, including key attendees/stakeholders and ACT objectives, you can view a [more detailed Airtable record here](#).

Event theme	Brief description	Core topic(s)	Timing	Importance
<i>Human rights risks</i>	Human rights risks of transparency frameworks and government transparency	Transparency involves information disclosure and access: that can have positive impacts, but it can also lead to human rights risks if it is not done carefully, or if mechanisms are abused. What are some prominent human rights risks created by transparency?	Urgent	High
<i>Human rights approach</i>	What does it mean to take a human rights approach to platform and government transparency?	Transparency by platforms and governments is important, but what does it mean to take a human rights approach in this context?	Soon	High
<i>Majority world researchers</i>	Researcher access to data in the majority world	Researcher access frameworks are oriented toward systemic risks in the Union. How will countries outside the EU develop their own regimes or benefit from those in the EU?	Soon	High
<i>Majority world transparency</i>	Buckets of transparency under the DSA for the majority world	The DSA creates a range of transparency frameworks and obligations. Summarise these for majority world participants and enable reflections on suitability for other jurisdictions	Soon	High
<i>Formats and languages</i>	Languages and formats for transparency materials, including accessibility for people with disabilities	Meaningful transparency includes producing information in formats that make it useful. This can include making information machine readable, produced in certain languages, "easy to understand", suitable for minors, or with accessibility features for people with impairments. This could include noting the shortcomings of existing mechanisms like ad libraries.	Soon	High

<i>New company transparency</i>	Companies' first transparency reports	If the DMA and DSA work, we can expect more new market entrants. For companies, how should they go about their first transparency reports?	Soon	High
<i>Delegated frameworks and civil society</i>	Keeping track of opportunities for civil society input in transparency frameworks	Delegated frameworks and regulator transparency	Soon	High
<i>Transparency report preparation</i>	What companies wish you knew about transparency reporting (could be merged with "companies' first transparency reports")	Understanding internal barriers to transparency at companies	Soon	High
<i>Preparing for the portal</i>	An event to make people aware of both the ACT shared calendar and our plans for the portal, with a view to soliciting user input on those tools, as well as getting data for incorporating into those tools.	Ideally, we could have an event about civil society coordination and encourage people to use the calendar and submit information for the portal so that we have data ready to go for the portal	Soon	High
<i>Article 85 DSA</i>	DSA regulator information sharing regime under article 85	The DSA sets up an information sharing regime under article 85 between digital services coordinators. How is this going to work? Are there similar existing systems we can observe and learn from? Does it enhance meaningful transparency, and how? What transparency is required over how it's used by EU member states and others?	Soon	High
<i>Platform diversity</i>	Tech company products and services are not homogenous and may have quite different features. What are some useful examples for regulators and others to bear in mind when working on transparency requirements?	Transparency for different platforms, products and services (could include Wikimedia)	Soon	High
<i>Audiences for transparency</i>	How do we serve the different audiences that exist for transparency reporting (customers, citizens, researchers, civil society, government, commercial entities, etc.)?	The groups or categories of people that transparency is relevant and delivered to, and how to tailor this transparency so that it's meaningful for a given recipient.	Soon	High
<i>Barriers</i>	Barriers discussion paper	We want to systematically categorise "barriers" to transparency so they can be dealt with systematically. We have a discussion paper for that purpose and want to attract attention to it.	Soon	Medium

<i>Audit briefing</i>	Audit briefing release/discussion	The ACT has submitted a briefing to DG CONNECT on audit frameworks under the DSA. Learn about the briefing and join others who are interested in making sure audit frameworks produce meaningful transparency.	Soon	Medium
<i>FOI and transparency</i>	Learning from past approaches to transparency - FOI, privacy frameworks, and open data movements	Transparency isn't new, what can we learn from previous approaches to transparency by states?	Soon	Medium
<i>Legal frameworks for transparency reporting</i>	Legal frameworks for public transparency reporting	Fleshing out Washington DC document, publishing it, making high level observations, collecting discussion outputs	Soon	Medium
<i>Researcher dispute resolution</i>	Adjudication systems for researcher access to data	EDMO has called for an institution to adjudicate researcher access requests. Other areas already have researcher access mechanisms. How do they deal with disputes?	Soon	Medium
<i>US legislation</i>	Potential US legal frameworks that require transparency	Being ready for potential rapid movement by US legislators	Soon	Medium
<i>Modularity</i>	Susan Ness and Chris Riley have suggested a modular approach to tech regulation. What does this mean? Can it be used to enhance meaningful transparency?	Fleshing out a modular approach to transparency, enabling ACT input into topics related to transparency, and making sure that modular approaches enhance meaningful transparency and avoid unintended consequences.	Soon	Medium
<i>User-facing transparency</i>	Innovations in user-facing transparency and interface design	Transparency frameworks, as well as voluntary platform behaviour, involve informing users about how systems work and how they are being treated by those systems. What are some examples of this working well and working poorly?	Soon	Low
<i>Audit standards processes</i>	Building connections between audit firms and human rights organisations	Audit frameworks in the DSA and elsewhere. How can CSOs meaningfully participate in private standard setting processes?	Later	High
<i>Statements of reasons and justification</i>	Transparency of reasons and justifications	How to effectively give reasons and justifications for actions at scale in a way that's meaningful	Later	High
<i>Portal</i>	ACT portal release	We are planning to have the transparency portal ready for release by March 2023 at the latest.	Later	Medium
<i>Definitions and taxonomy</i>	Miro map / taxonomy	Clarifying terminology and definitions around transparency	Later	Medium
<i>Process transparency</i>	Procedural transparency and predictability of processes	The DSA and other regimes require platforms and governments to be transparent about processes that exist for challenging decisions and making complaints, as well as having reliable points of contact. How is this going to work? What might we bring in from "access to justice" literature or other disciplines?	Later	Medium

<i>Crisis response</i>	Transparency and crisis response protocols	Transparency of crisis response protocols	Later	Medium
<i>Influence operations</i>	Transparency and influence operations	Many approaches to transparency have been piloted in the context of studying and detecting influence operations. How do these mechanisms work? What are some particular issues that arise when it comes to transparency about influence operation detection, monitoring, and attribution and disclosure?	Later	Medium
<i>Government transparency</i>	What can governments learn from tech platforms about transparency?	Tech companies and platforms have provided transparency reports for some time now, and are set to provide much more. What can government learn from their experiences, their failures, and their successes in order to be more transparent to their citizens?	Later	Medium
<i>Information flows under DSA (annotated DSA?)</i>	Annotated DSA output	An event to make people aware of the DSA annotated output, and its functionality, and to encourage input and participation.	Later	Low
<i>Advertising</i>	Advertising transparency	Advertising transparency under the DSA and elsewhere	Later	Low
<i>HRDD and risk assessment</i>	Human rights due diligence, risk assessment frameworks, and transparency of platform compliance function, including mitigation measures imposed by regulators	Platform self-audits, risk assessment, HRDD, operational reporting	Later	Low
<i>Subjects of transparency reports</i>	The laundry list to end all laundry lists	Subjects for transparency reporting	Later	Low
<i>Protocols not platforms</i>	Transparency and federated social networks like Mastodon	There has been a recent uptake of non-platform social media networks, primarily built on protocols, or federated networks. How might we think about transparency in these contexts? Is it relevant?	Later	Low
<i>Interoperability, antitrust, and transparency</i>	The DMA and other antitrust interventions are increasingly considering issues of interoperability and data portability. What role do these play in enhancing or undermining meaningful transparency?		Later	Low