Digitalisation and technological innovation in Europe

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1) Question and main aim of your research
To analyse and understand the effects of the growth of digital technologies and innovation on basic principles of the law and on core values, along with the needs this phenomenon creates for regulation and enforcement.

2) Main challenge
- The speed of technological change and innovation: can and should the law keep pace with technological development and aim to be “future-proof”? 
- The fact that digitalisation and technological innovation (“DTI”) permeates almost every aspect of our lives (also see (6) Distinctive elements)

3) Concepts
- The role of private companies has become crucial in the domains that have traditionally been reserved for the state.
- There are no physical borders in a digital market, which makes transnational regulation and enforcement in the EU essential – yet other types of borders may be erected.

4) Methodology
The Building Block is formed by three streams, which drive one another, like cogs:

5) Legitimacy vs Effectiveness
The blurring of the lines between public and private domains in the digital era is crucial to legitimacy and effectiveness. Examples include:
- Algorithmic discrimination & fairness
- Collaborative or “gig” economy
- Infodemic, disinformation and hate speech
- Social, inclusive Digital Single Market
- Fair internet ecosystem with equal access
- Use of AI to combat infringements of competition law, criminal activity or other
- Big Tech and cross-border access to electronic evidence.

6) Distinctive elements
- DTI engages the whole spectrum of the domains of law, including EU internal market law, competition law, fundamental rights, data protection law, consumer law, regulation of financial markets, and criminal and international law.

7) Outcome/Conclusions
Digitalisation has become an increasingly relevant aspect of EU policy and the Union’s identity.
In other parts of the world, the EU is often considered to be the champion of regulation & enforcement: e.g.
- GDPR
- Digital Services Act package
- Google antitrust proceedings
- e-Evidence package.

It is expected that the importance of digitalisation within the EU’s policy agenda will only grow.
This project’s ambition is to be at the forefront and impact these developments through research.