Salerno Winter School on Internet Governance

SWING

2° Edition 23–27 March 2026

The Salerno Winter School on Internet Governance (SWING) is a premier training initiative promoted by the University of Salerno. Founded in the heart of Southern Italy, it aims to consolidate an advanced hub of reflection and expertise on internet governance and emerging digital technologies. In a regional context historically characterized by structural divides but also by extraordinary strategic potential in and for the broader Mediterranean area, SWING was designed to help strengthen Southern Italy's role in the decision-making processes shaping the global digital ecosystem.

The training program is aimed at graduates, young researchers, ICT professionals, and those involved in developing and implementing public policies. The goal is to provide solid, methodologically rigorous, and up-to-date training in the key thematic areas and decision-making mechanisms governing the digital environment, with particular attention to its technical, geopolitical, regulatory, and socioeconomic dimensions. This offering takes on added value in Southern Italy, where advanced training in digital governance contributes not only to individual growth but also to strengthening the region's human and institutional capital.

The content covers topics of strategic importance for national and international agendas: the governance of digital infrastructures; the analysis of telecommunications system protocols and standards; the role of global platforms, especially in relation to the exercise of political power; digital sovereignty, as a manifestation of contemporary geopolitical conflict; data management and processing, with a particular focus on the challenges of AI, both in the public and private sectors; contemporary regulatory models, cooperation, and digital diplomacy. This second edition pays particular attention to network security and resilience, namely cybersecurity, analysed both in terms of its geopolitical implications and its various problematic aspects and areas of political-institutional, organizational, and economic-financial relevance. These central themes are destined to become increasingly crucial for the stability and functioning of social systems and infrastructures, both locally, nationally, and globally.

Cybersecurity (As a) Public Policy. The Institutionalization of platform and network security in the EU and Italy – U_GOV: 300663PRIN20AMORE_01, CUP: D43C20000080001, Grant Number: 2020X5LAK7

In a region particularly experiencing the challenges of economic and social cohesion and still grappling with the viscosities of bureaucratic and administrative organizational models consolidated in previous historical periods, these issues inevitably take on strategic significance. The digital transition requires governance, expertise, and forward-looking vision. The Winter School aims to help develop all three components, with an awareness of what is at stake: that Southern Italy becomes - and can become - a laboratory, a space where, through the exchange of diverse ideas and concepts, policies and models capable of combining innovation, development, and social responsibility can be tested and proposed. Located at a Southern Italian university with a consolidated international outlook, SWING also intends to stand out in another respect within the European landscape of advanced training in Internet governance. Unlike the experiences and initiatives undertaken to date, and still proposed by European universities, the Salerno Winter School is firmly committed to valorising - and listening to - non-Western geopolitical and geocultural areas. Starting with those of the Euro-Mediterranean region. This is certainly not to legitimize conflicts between alternative visions, but to broaden the scope of discussion and mutual understanding. Only by (re)cognizing (digital) cultures in their diversity, including in terms of network governance, can we contribute to building dialogue and coexistence: a goal that, while seemingly impracticable today, is within the realm of possibility. And to make it so, that is, possible, experiences like this one and those to be implemented in the future, with young people as protagonists, will make a decisive contribution.

The training program has a total duration of 44 hours, divided into:

- 4 hours of online lectures and activities, designed as preparatory sessions for the in-person component;
- 20 hours of in-person lectures, dedicated to in-depth theoretical engagement with the main policy and governance issues;
- 10 hours of seminars and round tables, featuring internationally renowned academics, institutional representatives, and ICT professionals;
- 10 hours of laboratories and simulations, aimed at the practical application of the knowledge and skills acquired.

The teaching activities, delivered in English, are carried out by professors from the University of Salerno together with researchers and professionals from Italy and abroad. The methodological approach, grounded in interdisciplinarity and a strong laboratory-based component, provides participants with both theoretical and practical tools to critically interpret and consciously shape the regulatory processes that configure the digital sphere at both national and global levels.

The scientific design, academic coordination, and evaluation of the programme are entrusted to an ad hoc Scientific Committee composed of university professors, scholars, and field experts, with the task of ensuring quality, coherence, and academic rigour. In this way, SWING consolidates the role of Southern Italy as a space for the production of strategic knowledge and as a platform connecting the local dimension with the global governance of the digital domain.

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Scientific Committee:

Francesco Amoretti (University of Salerno), **Alessandro Aresu** (Writer, Consultant, and Public Policy Expert), **Simone Busetti** (University of Teramo), **Aniello Castiglione** (University of Salerno), **Mauro Calise** (University of Naples "Federico II"), **Afonso De Albuquerque** (Coordinator of INCT-DSI, The National Institute of Science and Technology in Information Disputes and Sovereignty), **Domenico Fracchiolla** (Universitates Mercatorum), **Tiberio Graziani** (Director of Geopolitica Journal), **Fortunato Musella** (University of Naples "Federico II"), **Giovanni Maria Riccio** (University of Salerno), **Diana Salzano** (University of Salerno), **Liziane Soares Guazina** (University of Brasilia), **Maria Stella Righettini** (University of Padua), **Giancarlo Vecchi** (Polytechnic of Milan).

Organising Secretariat:

Michele Barbieri (University of Salerno), **Bogdan Dudu Georgian** (University of Salerno), **Gerardo Ferrentino** (University of Salerno), **Emmanuele Armando Napoli** (University of Salerno) **Giuseppe Micciarelli** (University of Naples "Federico II"), **Graziella Salvatore** (University of Salerno), **Mattia Sguazzini** (University of Genoa), **Veronica Strina** (University of Salerno).

PROGRAMME - Day 0 – 16 March 2026 (Online)

An introductory session will provide an overview of the NIS2 Directive, outlining its objectives, regulatory framework, and relevance for organizations. The session will establish the conceptual foundations for the subsequent laboratory activities and will specifically prepare participants for the practical components of the intensive week of the *Salerno Winter School on Internet Governance (SWING 2026)*. It will provide attendees with the essential context and understanding needed to develop the deliverables to be discussed on March 27 at the end of the intensive week.

Timetable: 12:00-16:00

PROGRAMME 23-27 March 2026

23 March 2026

The Three Dimensions of Cybersecurity: National Security, Sovereignty and Geopolitics

Opening Session and Introduction to the Winter School

Virgilio D'Antonio - Rector, University of Salerno

Francesco Amoretti - Director of School, University of Salerno

Ornella Malandrino - Director of Disa-Mis, University of Salerno

Domenico Fracchiolla - Scientific Coordinator**,** Universitas Mercatorum

Aniello Castiglione - Scientific Coordinator, University of Salerno

Timetable: 09:00-09:50

Keynote Speaker

Jan Andrzej Zielonka - Emeritus, University of Oxford

Title: "Safeguarding democracy in the digital age"

Timetable: 09:50-10:40

Coffee Break

Timetable: 10:40-11:00

Morning Sessions

Ottorino Cappelli - L'Orientale University of Naples

Marco Aliberti - European Space Policy Institute, Wien

Title: "Space and (cyber)security"

Timetable: 11:00-11:50

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Aniello Castiglione - University of Salerno

Title: "Critical infrastructures and global protocols"

Timetable: 11:50-12:40

Mattia Sguazzini - University of Genoa

Title: "Between Organizational Cultures and policy Struggles: Constrains and Enablers of Cybersecurity Policy"

Timetable: 12:40-13:30

Light Lunch

Timetable: 13:30-14:30

Seminar

Matteo Lucchetti - Director at CYBER 4.0, National Cyber Security Competence Center, MIMIT

Title: "Fighting Cybercrime as a National Security Challenge"

Timetable: 14:30-15:30

Workshop

Michele Barbieri - University of Salerno

Title: "Expanding the Regulatory Perimeter and Involved Actors"

Mattia Sguazzini - University of Genoa

Title: "Responsibility, Liability, and Compliance in Comparative Perspective"

Veronica Strina - University of Salerno

Title: "Cognitive warfare in the digital age: China and security implications for the European Union"

Timetable: 15:30-17:00

Dinner

Timetable: 19:00

24 March 2026

Actors, Rules, and Digital Diplomacies (Cyber Diplomacy, Cyber Wars, Algocracy, Algoethics, AI)

Keynote Speakers

Mauro Calise - Emeritus, University of Naples "Federico II"

Fortunato Musella - University of Naples "Federico II", Director of Federica Web Learning

Title: "Digicracy"

Timetable: 09:00-09:50

Morning Sessions

Alessio Merlo - Director of University School for Advanced Defence Studies (CASD-SSU)

Title: "Cyberattacking Aircraft in Flight: feasibility and political aspects"

Timetable: 09:50-10:40

Coffee Break

Timetable: 10:40-11:00

Round Table

Nicola Saldutti - Chief Economics Editor, Corriere della Sera - **Chair**

Diego Brasioli - Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Domenico Fracchiolla - Universitas Mercatorum

Tiberio Graziani - Director of Geopolitica

Title: "Disinformation as a Threat to National Security"

Timetable: 11:00-11:50

Morning Sessions

Alessandro Aresu – Writer, consultant, and public policy expert

Title: "AI Governance and Strategic Autonomy"

Timetable: 11:50-12:40

Malcom Campbell Verduyn - University of Groningen

Title: "Digital Money, Blockchain and AI in the Global Political Economy"

Timetable: 12:40-13:30

Light Lunch

Timetable: 13:30-14:30

Seminar

Anna Urbanovics - Ludovika University of Public Service - NKE

Title: "The EU Cyberdiplomacy: The Toolbox and Beyond"

Timetable: 14:30-15:30

Round Table

Andrea Pancani - Journalist, Anchorman TVLA7 -**Chair**

Nunzia Ciardi - Deputy Director General of the National Cybersecurity Agency

Vincenzo Maraio - Councillor for Digital Transition for the Campania Region

Alessio Merlo - Director of University School for Advanced Defence Studies (CASD)

Fortunato Musella - University of Naples "Federico II", Director of Federica Web Learning

Riccardo Sessa- President of SIOI

Luca Tagliaretti - Executive Director of the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC),

Timetable: 15:30-17:00

Dinner

Timetable: 19:00

25 March 2026

Ethics, Freedom, Rights and Cybersecurity

Morning Sessions

Gabriele Giacomini - University of Udine

Title: "Political freedom and control in digital space"

Timetable: 09:00-09:50

Maria Stella Righettini - University of Padua

Title: "Cybersecurity and Collaborative Governance: Multilevel Agencies, Beneficiaries and Resilience-Building"

Timetable: 09:50-10:40

Coffee Break

Timetable: 10:40-11:00

Diego Brasioli - Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Title: "Disruptive technologies (AI and quantum) and their impact on cybersecurity"

Timetable: 11:00-11:50

Giancarlo Vecchi - Polytechnic of Milan

Title: "Role of Regional and Local Structures in Cybersecurity: Orchestration As a Governance Model"

Timetable: 11:50-12:40

Giovanni Maria Riccio - University of Salerno

Title: "Legal Challenges of Disruptive Technologies"

Timetable: 12:40-13:30

Light Lunch

Timetable: 13:30-14:30

Seminar

Simone Busetti - University of Teramo

Francesco Maria Scanni - University of Teramo

Title: "Measurement and Evaluation of Cybersecurity Policy"

Timetable: 14:30-15:30

Workshop

Michele Barbieri - University of Salerno

Gerardo Ferrentino - University of Salerno

Mattia Sguazzini - University of Genoa

Veronica Strina - University of Salerno

Title: Tutor-Guided Laboratory Workshop for Project Output Development

Timetable: 15:30-17:00

Dinner

Timetable: 19:00

26 March 2026

Geopolitics, Finance, Economics and AI of Cybersecurity

Morning Sessions

Rosaria Cerrone - University of Salerno

Title: "Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) for Integrated Cyber Security and Risk Management: an Impact Analysis for Banks and Financial Intermediaries"

Timetable: 09:00-09:50

Tamás Szádeczky - Ludovika University of Public Service - NKE

Title: "Cybersecurity Management and financial impact"

Timetable: 09:50-10:40

Coffee Break

Timetable: 10:40-11:00

Ulrik Franke - Swedish Defence University

Title: "Cybersecurity economics - why it is important and why it is difficult"

Timetable: 11:00-11:50

Afonso de Albuquerque - Director of INCT-DSI, Brasilia

Title: "Disinformation Phenomena on Platforms: Perspective from the Global South"

Timetable: 11:50-12:40

Daniela Irrera - University School for Advanced Defence Studies (CASD-SSU)

Title: "The use of advanced technologies by non-state armed actors and impact on conflicts"

Timetable: 12:40-13:30

Light Lunch

Timetable: 13:30-14:30

Seminar

Marie-Line Billaudaz - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Title: "Cybercrime and security in Africa: regional perspectives"

Timetable: 14:30-15:30

Afternoon Sessions

Giuseppe Corasaniti - Universitas Mercatorum

Title: "Geopolitics of AI"

Timetable: 15:30-17:00

Dinner

Timetable: 19:00

27 March 2026

Sovereignty, Security, and Technological Power

Morning Sessions

Olesya Vinhas De Souza - NATO Defense College

Title: "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and National Cyber Security Strategies"

Timetable: 09:00-09:50

Flavia Lucenti - LUISS Guido Carli

Title: "Digital authoritarianism and Russia's cyber norm promotion"

Timetable: 09:50-10:40

Coffee Break

Timetable: 10:40-11:00

Martin Koyabe - Senior Advisor, GFCE Africa, Global Forum on Cyber Expertise

Title: "Strengthening Cyber Capacity Building in Africa: Challenges and Prospects"

Timetable: 11:00-11:50

Liziane Soares Guazina - University of Brasilia

Title: "Innovation in Combating Disinformation: A Latin American approach"

Timetable: 11:50-12:40

Qiaochu Zhang - European University Institute (EUI)

Veronica Strina - University of Salerno

Title: "China is not unitary: Mapping the diverse actors shaping China's approach to AI governance"

Timetable: 12:40-13:30

Light Lunch

Timetable: 13:30-14:30

Keynote Speaker

Luca Belli - Director of the Center for Technology and Society, Rio de Janeiro

Title: "Digital Sovereignty in the BRICS Countries"

Timetable: 14:30-15:30

Workshop

Michele Barbieri - University of Salerno

Gerardo Ferrentino - University of Salerno

Mattia Sguazzini - University of Genoa

Veronica Strina - University of Salerno

Title: Final Discussion

Timetable: 15:30-17:00

Dinner

Timetable: 19:00

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For further information see this link: SWING 2026

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