



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Youth and Online Safety

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The Online Safety Ecosystem

Policy Makers

Implementation

European Commission

Department of Culture, Communications & Sport

European Commission

- DG Connect

→ Online Safety & Media Regulation Act, 2022

Digital Regulators

AVMSD

→ eIDAS Bill

- Coimisiún na Meán

eIDAS

Department of Enterprise, Tourism & Employment

→ Digital Services Act

Digital Services Act

→ Digital Services Act

→ Online Safety Code

AI Act

→ AI Act

→ Terrorism Content Online Regulation

- DG Just

Department of Justice, Home Affairs & Migration

- Data Protection Commission

GDPR

→ GDPR

- CCPC

Terrorism Content

→ Terrorism Content Online Regulation

- ComReg

Online Regulation

Department of Health

An Garda Síochána

Department of Education & Youth

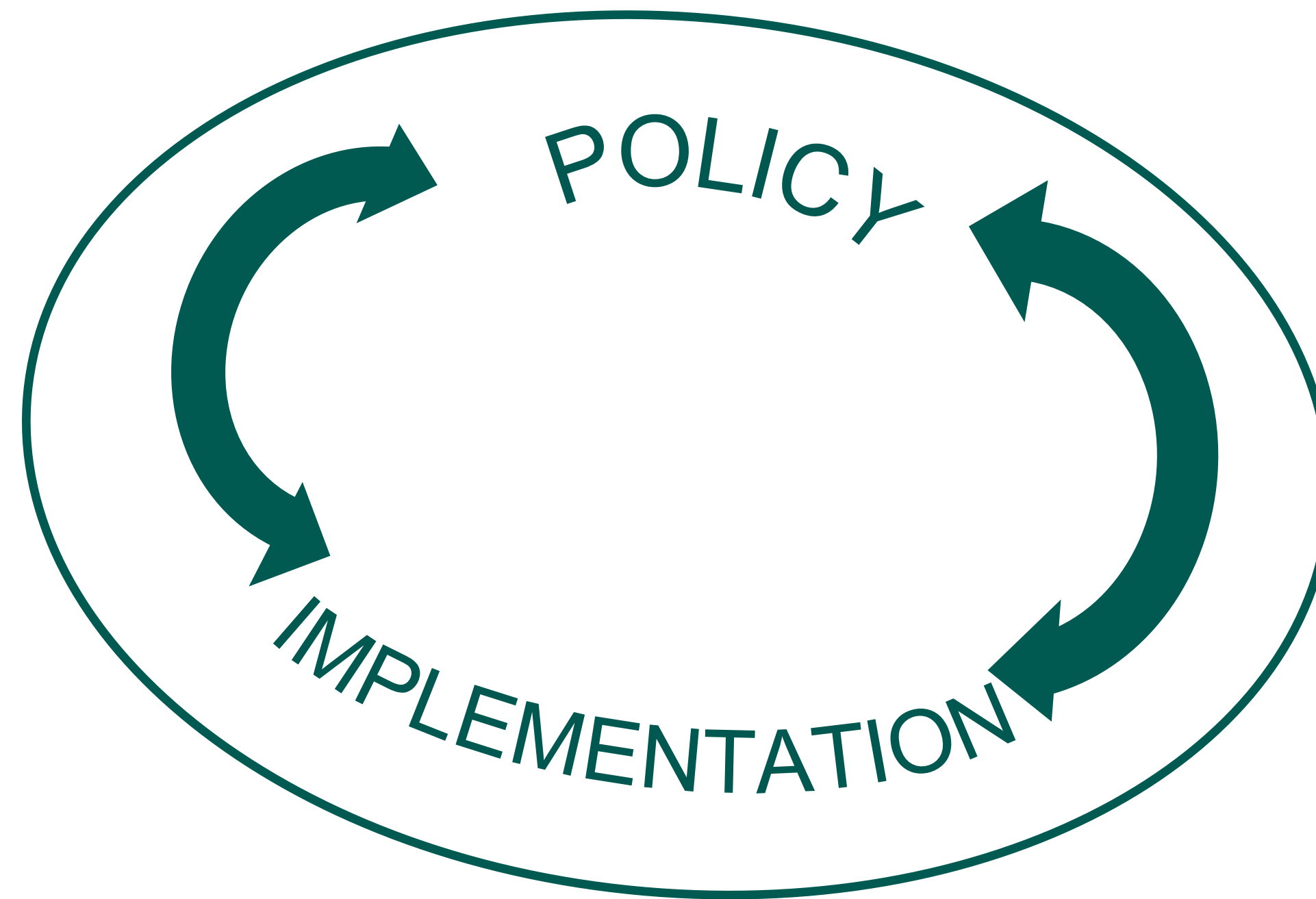
Hotline

Webwise

Implementing the AVMS Directive



- Protect minors from content that “may impair their physical, mental and moral development” on “video-sharing platforms”.



- Country of origin
- Infringement
- Certainty in law
- What to bring within scope – define categories of content
- No international comparators
- Balance of detail in law vs in regulatory codes

Framework



- Ministerial Leadership
- Policy Papers with options
- Public Consultation
- Open Policy Debate
- Oireachtas Reports & Debates
- Private Members' Bills
- Children's Rights Groups, ICCL, Other NGOs
- Industry
- European Commission
- Australian eSafety Commissioner
- Expert Group on Individual Complaints

←----- Time Pressure, Infringement

←----- Election

←----- Media



Implementation: a new Regulator?

- One regulator or more?
- Structure
- Chair/Board + CEO?
- Commission? --- Revolving Chair? Number of members
- Staffing
- Remit
- Build for the Future
- Meaningful Sanctions

Policy Outcome



Online Safety and Media Regulation Act, 2022

- Defines categories of harmful content
- Establishes Coimisiún na Meán
- Media and Online Safety Codes
- Meaningful penalties

Ever-shifting Landscape of Regulations



Digital Services Act

- Regulation, not Directive
- Maximum Harmonisation
- Overlap with AVMSD
- AVMSD Revision 2026
- Digital Fairness Act 2026
- AI Omnibus 2026
- DSA Review 2027

What's Next? “Digital Age of Majority”



Data & Evidence → Is it the right thing?

Online Health Taskforce
Publications & Public Health Experts
Oireachtas Committee Report
Coimisiún na Meán Evidence
European Commission's Expert Panel

Feasibility & Implementation

→ Will it be effective?

Age Verification/Digital Wallet

Establish Legitimacy

Political Momentum
European Engagement
Youth Forum
EU Presidency Conference



Reflections

- Communications
- Cross-Departmental co-operation
- Engagement with Oireachtas Committees
- Managing expectations
- Building alliances
- Role of data and evidence in deciding policy options
- Effectiveness of implementation
- Preventative measures
- Managing morale



Thank you.

Questions?