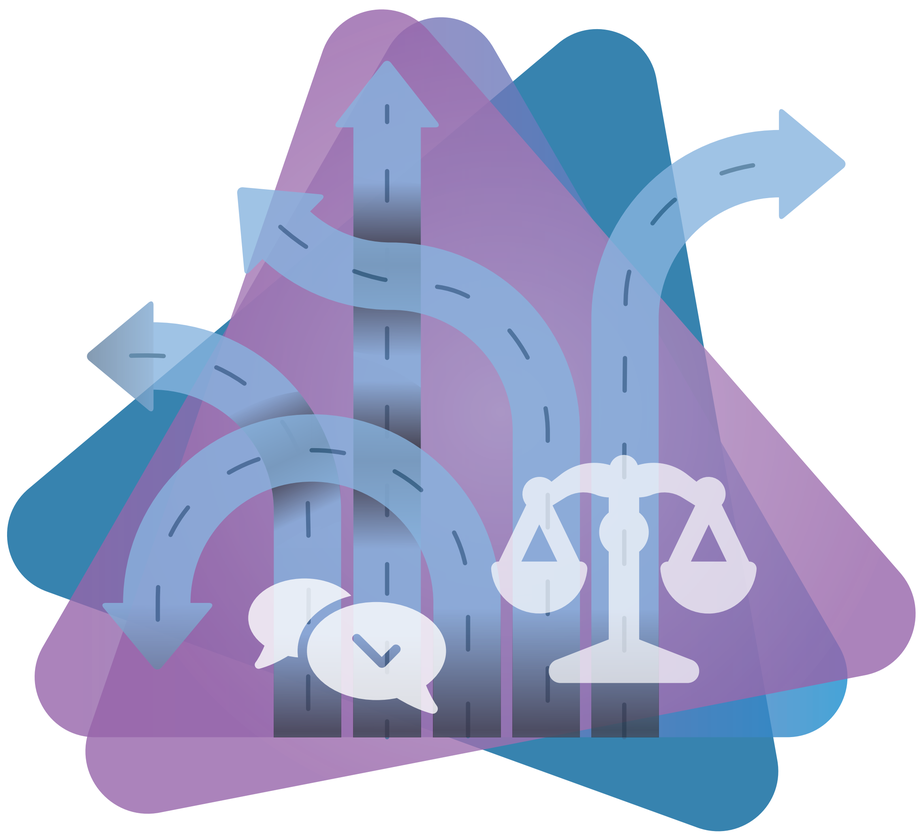
Center for the Future of Dispute Resolution



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MISSION

Rather than studying dispute resolution 'as is', the **Center for the Future of Dispute Resolution** (CFDR) adopts a forward looking approach: "**How will and should dispute resolution evolve** under the impulse of a series of social developments?"

Digitalization and out-of-court dispute resolution are two of the main focuses. Consequently, two recurring themes across the various research projects concern:

- **Human versus Machine:** the role, position and added-value of the human decision-maker in light of digitalization.
- **Efficiency versus Legitimacy:** the weight given to party-autonomy and concerns of legitimacy as opposed to standards of efficiency.

TOPICS

Digitalization

- ODR and the Metaverse
- E-signatures, e-awards and judgements
- Cybersecurity and confidentiality
- Virtual hearings and due process

Conflict prevention

- Apology legislation
- Acknowledgement of wrongdoing

Europeanization

- Growing influence of EU law in the field of dispute resolution
- GDPR and actors of justice
- Dispute resolution and e-commerce

Citizen participation

Mediation and facilitation during participatory processes

AI and Blockchain

- Centaur arbitration
- AI in mediation
- On-chain dispute resolution
- Human persona of third party in ADR

Ethics

- Impact of personality and human qualities of mediators and facilitators
- Virtue ethics and ADR

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND ECONOMY

CFDR **pushes innovation to the next level** by providing input on the legal building blocks necessary to enhance confidence in the digitalization of dispute resolution processes. It contributes to a much broader societal debate on **the role and added value of men versus machine** by examining the human qualities that are primordial for a dispute resolution narrative that serves not merely efficiency and justice, but that prioritizes societal well-being.

CFDR provides a unique contribution to the field of law and AI and the growing segment that deals with dispute resolution processes in general and decision-making issues in particular. It does this by **studying the potential of AI and other new intelligent technologies** for dispute resolution and by **raising awareness of the (unintended) negative consequences** that could arise when left unchecked.

GHENT UNIVERSITY

FACULTY OF LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY