Safeguarding the Human Person in the Age of Neurotechnology: the PAL presents its new document

An international conference on 11 December 2026 in Rome will present and discuss the outcomes of the Academy's Neuroscience Study Group, exploring the ethical, anthropological and societal implications of developments in neuroscience and neurotechnology. Participation will be available both in person and online

The conference will present and discuss the outcomes of the international Neuroscience Study Group established by the Academy to explore the ethical, anthropological and societal implications of contemporary developments in neuroscience.

The event will mark an important step in the work of the Study Group, bringing together experts from different disciplines to present the resulting Document and its Recommendations and to foster further academic discussion on the understanding and protection of the human person in the age of neuroscience.

The programme will include four sessions. The first will focus on contributions relating to advances in neuroscience and the use of neurotechnologies. The second will address anthropological and ethical challenges, including the person-centred perspective, mental freedom, mental privacy and the limits of reading and altering the mind.

The third session will examine legal regulation, identifying existing rules and gaps, and exploring the relevance of human rights principles and possible approaches to regulating neurotechnologies. The fourth session will be devoted to discussion.

The conference will conclude with a lecture by Giacomo Rizzolatti (University of Parma), followed by concluding reflections and final remarks.

The event will take place at Sala Marconi, Vatican Radio, Piazza Pia 3, Rome (Italy). The conference will be held exclusively in English and will be accessible both in person and remotely.

In-person participation costs €50 and includes conference materials and a coffee break. Places are limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Once all available in-person places have been taken, the

registration system will automatically switch to online registration. Remote participation is free of charge.

S A V E T H E D A T E

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“Safeguarding the Human Person
in the Age of Neurotechnology”

11 December 2026
Vatican City
In-person and online

GENERAL INFORMATION

PARTICIPATION OPTIONS
The Workshop will be accessible in person or remotely. The Conference will be accessible in person or remotely.
In-person places are limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Once all available in-person places have been taken, the registration system will automatically switch the registration to online mode.
In person: €50. To register in person: LINK
Remotely: free of charge. To regiser remotely: LINK

DATES AND VENUE
The Conference is organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life (PAV). It will be held on 11 December 2026, at the Sala Marconi, Piazza Pia 3, Rome (Italy).

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES
Only English

INCLUDED IN THE IN-PERSON REGISTRATION FEE
Conference materialsCoffee break

NOT INCLUDED IN THE IN-PERSON REGISTRATION FEE

Travel and accommodation expenses are not included and must be arranged individually by each participant.

Any costs not explicitly listed under “Included in the in-person registration fee” are not covered.

CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION

Certificates of participation, for both in-person and remote attendees, can be requested by email (health@pav.va) from Monday 14 December 2026, and they will be sent as a PDF attachment.

REGISTRATION is open: