



DATA SOVEREIGNTY IN THE DIGITAL DECADE – FOR A STRONGER DIGITAL EUROPE IN THE WORLD
4TH OCTOBER, 12.00 - 13.30 CET, ONLINE (WEBEX)

An event organised for and with the Digital Decade Community on Futurium

Futurium is a platform maintained by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect) to facilitate open dialogue on EU digital policies. The Digital Decade Community on Futurium provides a space to exchange ideas and best practices in order to reach the EU's 2030 goals in the area of digital infrastructures, skills, businesses and public services. Previous events organised through the Community focused on different aspects of [Europe's Digital Decade](#).

This **5th webinar** will be focused on **Data Sovereignty**, as data is at the heart of the digital transformation and will play a significant role in meeting Europe's digital targets by 2030. The webinar will be divided **into two parts**:

The first part will feature presentations by representatives of the European Commission and a Member of the European Parliament, and will focus on the following points:

- ❖ What is data sovereignty and why is it important for Europe's digital transformation? What does it entail for European citizens?
- ❖ Where does the EU stand today on data sovereignty?
- ❖ Is it important for the EU to invest in building cloud storage resources to put European data in EU hands?

The second part will be a panel discussion involving stakeholders working in the field of data sovereignty, and will focus on the following points:

- ❖ How can data sovereignty be improved?
- ❖ What are the current challenges faced by SMEs, proposed solutions and calls for action?
- ❖ How can data sovereignty promote growth, innovation, and security?
- ❖ How can Europe be more attractive to tech talents?

This section of the webinar will also feature an interactive discussion with the audience based on a survey conducted on Slido:

- ***Choose one concept to describe what 'data sovereignty' means to you:***
 - Trust · Empowerment · Innovation · Access
- ***What does it take for a business to ensure 'data sovereignty'?***
 - The know-how · Incentives · Tools/infrastructure · Digital skills
- ***What is the most important to you when sharing data?***
 - Clear rights on data access and use · Data handling responsibility
 - Awareness of how data is used · Clear purpose

Detailed Agenda

12:00 - 12:02 Introduction & what to expect – Mr. Eric PETERS, Deputy Head of Unit, Implementation of the Regulatory Framework, DG Connect, European Commission

First Session: What is data sovereignty and why is it important for Europe's digital transformation? Where does the EU stand today on data sovereignty?

12:02-12:05 Introduction of the first session & speakers – Ms. Nadina IACOB, Associate Research Fellow in the Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation, and Digital Economy Unit at CEPS

12:05 - 12:15 Ms. Miapetra KUMPULA NATRI, S&D in the European Parliament, Rapporteur for European Strategy for Data

12:15 - 12:25 Mr. Yvo VOLMAN, Director of Data Policy and Innovation, DG Connect, European Commission

12:25-12:30 Q&A – moderated by Ms. Nadina IACOB, Associate Research Fellow in the Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation, and Digital Economy Unit at CEPS

Second Session: Panel discussion

12:30 - 12:35 Introduction of the second session – Ms. Nadina IACOB, Associate Research Fellow in the Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation, and Digital Economy Unit at CEPS

12:35-13:15 Data Sovereignty – A panel discussion

➔ Moderator: Ms. Nadina IACOB, Associate Research Fellow in the Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation, and Digital Economy Unit at CEPS

➔ Speakers:

- Ms. Denia Kanellopoulou, Innovation Services Expert, Ahedd
- Mr. Kai WAGNER, Chief Advocacy Officer at Jolocom & Co-chair of the Identity Working Group and Member of the Board of Directors, International Association of Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA)
- Mr. Daniël DU SEUILS, Convenor of the European Self-Sovereign Identity Framework (EBSI) within the European Blockchain Partnership
- Ms. Rebekka WEISS, Head of Data Protection and Consumer Law, BITKOM e.V.

13:15 - 13:20 Q&A with panelists - moderated by Ms. Nadina IACOB, Associate Research Fellow in the Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation, and Digital Economy Unit at CEPS

13:20 – 13:25 Slido questions for the participants – moderated by Ms. Nadina IACOB, Associate Research Fellow in the Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation, and Digital Economy Unit at CEPS

13:25 - 13:30 Conclusion & next steps – Mr. Eric PETERS, Deputy Head of Unit Implementation of the Regulatory Framework, DG CNECT

Background Information

In the State of the Union Address of September 2020, Commission President von der Leyen announced that Europe should secure digital sovereignty with a common vision of the EU in 2030, based on clear goals and principles. Data – its storage, access, use and sharing – is a key site where action is needed for Europe to become more digitally sovereign in practice.

"We want to give our businesses but also our researchers and the public services better access to data", said President von der Leyen on 19th February 2020, as she presented the European Data Strategy.

Data is at the heart of the digital transformation. It serves as the foundation for many new products and services, driving productivity and resource efficiency gains across all sectors of the economy, enabling more personalised products and services, and enabling better policymaking and government service upgrades. Data is a **critical resource for human-centric innovation in the public and private sectors** and for reaching Europe's 2030 digital targets:

- 75% of EU enterprises use cloud computing services, big data and Artificial Intelligence
- Europe will grow the pipeline of its innovative scale ups and improve their access to finance, leading to doubling the number of unicorns
- 100% of key public services for citizens and businesses are available online
- 100% of European citizens have access to electronic medical records
- 80% of citizens will use a digital ID solution

Data sovereignty featured prominently in the Conference on the Future of Europe. One out of the five broad citizen proposals on ways for the EU to embrace the digital transformation is to promote data sovereignty of individuals, better awareness and more efficient implementation and enforcement of existing data protection rules (GDPR) to empower individuals and avoid that their personal data is misused.

At the same time, as individuals and companies generate ever-increasing amounts of data by using Internet of Things objects for their daily activities, it is of utmost importance that data is collected and used in full respect of **European, human-centred values**.

By recognising the growing prominence and importance of data sovereignty, the webinar aims to enhance the **shared understanding of the** concept among European stakeholders, both from the private and public sectors, and citizens in different Member States, and to explore ideas on **how it can be fostered** in the EU.

We will also discuss how **data control** empowers businesses and individuals to benefit from the digital transformation.

Speakers' bios

Eric PETERS: has been Deputy Head of Unit responsible for the implementation of telecoms regulations and in charge of the Digital Decade Task Force at DG Connect since March 2021. Before that, he was the special adviser to the Director-General. In 2017, Eric joined the cabinet of Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, as an expert member and in 2015, he joined DG Connect in charge of Digital Single Market coordination. Previously, he was a member of the Bureau of European Policy Advisers of the President of the European Commission as an advisor on international affairs and economic matters. He was an adviser to France's Permanent Representative for the EU institutions. He worked as an administrator in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Trade and then became an adviser in the office of Christine Lagarde, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, on European and international affairs. He holds a master's degree in molecular and cellular biology. He is a chief engineer in rural water and forestry engineering.

Miapetra KUMPULA NATRI: is a Member of the European Parliament representing Finland and the S&D Group. She is eager to find sustainable solutions to climate change and to the energy sector. She advocates for more investments in research and knowledge as well as fair working life through the European cooperation. Digitalisation, equal rights and equality at all levels are also close to her heart. She is a strong advocate for gender equality and women in tech and digital cooperation. MEP Kumpula-Natri is a member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and a substitute of the Committee on International Trade (INTA) and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO). She has been the first vice-chair of the Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age (AIDA), which has recently finished its work as the committee's mandate was completed. MEP Kumpula-Natri is the vice-chair of the Delegation for relations with the United States and a substitute of the Delegation for relations with Japan. She is a standing rapporteur of the European Parliament's INTA committee for WTO e-commerce negotiations and the chair and founder of the UN Generation Equality Friendship Group in the European Parliament. She was also a member of the European Parliament's delegation to the Conference on the Future of Europe. For 11 years, MEP Kumpula-Natri, who is an engineer by profession, was a member of the Finnish Parliament. Among other things, she was the chairperson of the Parliament's Grand Committee, which is responsible for expressing the Parliament's stance on EU's legislative proposals. She was also a member of the municipal council of Vaasa for 20 years.

Yvo VOLMAN: is the Director of the Data directorate in the Directorate General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect) of the European Commission. Yvo studied at the Universities of Amsterdam and Strasbourg and holds a PhD in European law awarded by the European University Institute in Florence. He worked for the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs in the areas of industrial and technology policy, before joining the European Commission in 1998. In the Commission, he dealt with legislative and strategic issues as well as funding programmes related to the information market, digitisation and data.

Nadina IACOB: is an Associate Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and Consultant at the World Bank. As a policy researcher, she is driven by the desire to explore the potential of the digital transformation and its implications across a variety of policy areas. In her recent work, she has focused particularly on analysing the emerging rules for governing data and the digital economy in areas including public administration and healthcare. Nadina is also a fellow of the Charlemagne Prize Academy Foundation, implementing a research project exploring the emergence of digital currencies and their potential impacts.

Denia KANELLOPOULOU (MEng, MSc, PhD): is an innovation services expert at ahedd Digital Innovation Hub-DIH (a gold-labelled BDVA i-space) and a post-doctoral researcher at [NCSR "Demokritos"](#), the largest research centre in Greece and coordinator of [Smart Attica](#) European DIH. Denia strives to bridge the gap between research results and industrial applications by analysing business needs and creating data-driven innovative solutions that will empower digital transformation and competitiveness with the use of breakthrough technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Internet-of-Things and 5G. She further engages in business development, fundraising, ecosystem-building and policy-making activities (including the participation in BDVA, Digital SME Alliance and several DIH networks).

Kai WAGNER: is a Chief Advocacy Officer at Jolocom, a Berlin based self-sovereign identity company that has been active in the decentralised identity space since 2014. There, he has developed and run projects on self-sovereign identity with the German and Belgian public sector, as well as with private sector entities such as Deutsche Telekom and Bundesdruckerei. Next to his work at Jolocom Kai Wagner has served as a member of the board of directors at INATBA since April 2019 and is the co-chair of its identity-working group. Building on his work with the German Blockchain Association (Bundesblock) where he authored and coordinated a widely read comprehensive introduction and position paper to Self-Sovereign Identity, he is now working on the international level with INATBA to drive convergence in the dynamic self-sovereign identity market in context of the recent European Commission initiative eIDAS2.

Daniël Du SEUIL: is the convenor of the European Self Sovereign Identity Framework within the European Blockchain Partnership. This partnership of 30 EU Member States and related countries cooperate in the establishment of a European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI) that will support the delivery of cross-border digital public services, with the highest standards of security and privacy. Daniel is also the initiator and project leader of the National Belgian SSI project Blockchain on the move. He is currently working as a project manager digital transformation at District09 (City of Ghent) and was the former blockchain programme manager of the Flemish government. He is also a member of the EU blockchain observatory and co-initiator of the Belgian blockchain taskforce at Beltug.

Rebekka WEISS: is the head of the Trust and Security department at Bitkom and is responsible, among other things, for content-related work in the areas of data protection, competition and antitrust law, trust services and digital identities. She represents Bitkom and the business community in various expert bodies, including the BSI Advisory Council on Digital Consumer Protection, and heads the Operational Requirements Working Group in the Gaia-X Data Space Business Committee. Rebekka Weiss is a fully qualified lawyer. She studied in Germany and Switzerland and holds a Master of Laws in "Intellectual Property and the Digital Economy" from the University of Glasgow.