

# INTERNATIONAL FORUM on DIGITAL & DEMOCRACY

## SECOND EDITION

*17-18 November 2022*

*Live and Digital Event (Rome and online)*

### DRAFT PROGRAMME

#### Background Information

The International Forum on Digital and Democracy is a leading international event that brings together prominent thinkers from academia, policy, non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders to discuss and debate some of the most pressing issues of our time. It aims to be a meeting place between politics and academics to promote international collaboration while exchanging information, ideas and good practices.

Originated from an idea of world-renowned economics professor and global leader in sustainable development, Professor **Jeffrey D. Sachs**, and former President of the European Commission, Professor **Romano Prodi**, the event has featured, [among many others](#), contributions from European Commission's Vice President **Věra Jourová**, and Professor **Manuel Castells**, leading scholar on globalisation, network society, and internet studies.

The 2022 edition, organised in close cooperation between partners **Associazione Copernicani**, **Fondazione Luigi Einaudi**, **Re-Imagine Europa**, and **SoBigData++**, will focus on the relationship between technology, democracy and freedom of expression.

As a follow-up to the debate of the first edition, the Forum will explore and develop the interplay between digital technologies and data, political participation, and governance, with two additional focuses: the implementation of eGovernance and disinformation.

## THURSDAY THE 17<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER

### DAY ONE

#### OPENING SESSION

14:00

##### WELCOME ADDRESS

**Romano Prodi** - Former President of the European Commission, Former Italian Prime Minister, co-founder of the International Forum on Digital and Democracy

14:15

##### OPENING ADDRESS

Keynote address by **Věra Jourová** - Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency  
Followed by a conversation with **Luca De Biase** - Media Research Director at Re-Imagine Europa

14:30

##### *Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*

In conversation with **Gabriela Ramos** - Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO  
Moderator: **Erika Staël von Holstein** - Chief Executive at Re-Imagine Europa

#### DISINFORMATION SESSION

14:45

##### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

*Technology-fuelled disinformation has a toxic societal impact on democratic political culture, providing severe polarisation which damages all institutions essential to democracy*

**Petros Panagiotopoulos**. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece: *Public Space & Social Media: New possibilities of politicisation, "echo chambers" or fora of neo-populism?*

**Max Lesser, Hallie J. Stern and Sara-Jayne Terp**. DISARM Foundation, USA: *Countering Russian Misinformation, Disinformation, Malinformation and Influence Campaigns in Italy Surrounding the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.*

14:55

##### ROUNDTABLE: "Polarization and technology-fueled disinformation: steps to disengage and tackle misleading web content"

Keynote: **Munir Khasru** - Chairman, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

**Jessica Schulman** - Strategic Advocacy Advisor, United Nations

**Yousup Faruqu** - Managing Director, Microsoft Bangladesh (TBC)

**Nadeem Anjum** - Head of Notifications and AI, Facebook (Meta)

Moderator: **Sonia Bashir Kabir** - Vice Chair, UN Tech Bank for LDCs

##### Q&A SESSION

## POLICY SESSION

15:55

### *Presentation of the [United Nations E-Government Survey 2022](#)*

Digital technologies and AI are increasingly shaping the agenda of international diplomacy. Still, the effort to build global governance for digital is far from producing any result. What does this mean today, and which changes should we expect in multilateral and bilateral relations in the next few years?

*In conversation with **Vincenzo Aquaro** - Chief of Digital Government at the United Nations*

*Moderator: **Gianluca Misuraca** - Co-Founder at Inspiring Futures SA*

16:15

## CLOSING SESSION

***Monica Maggioni** - Journalist and director of the Italian news program TG1, former President of RAI and former Vice President of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), member of the Board of Re-Imagine Europa (TBC)*

# FRIDAY THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER

## DAY TWO

### DEMOCRACY, DATA & AI

#### *The Future of SoBigData*

9:30 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

*Roberto Trasarti* – *SoBigData++ Project Coordinator*

10:15 DATA AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

*Kalina Bontcheva* - *University of Sheffield*  
*Fosca Giannotti* - *Scuola Normale Superiore*  
*Jeroen van den Hoven* - *Technische Universiteit Delft*

11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 ROUNDTABLE: "Can Data Governance and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence Help Strengthen our Democracies?"

Can civil and human rights be protected by implementing a different design for the current digital ecosystem? Is data transparency a key factor in protecting our democracies?

*Fosca Giannotti* - *Scuola Normale Superiore*  
*Patrizia Toia* - *Member of the European Parliament*  
*Paul Lukowicz* - *DFKI and University of Kaiserslautern*  
*Jeroen van den Hoven* - *Technische Universiteit Delft*  
*José Cotta* - *Head of European Commission's Unit "Digital Science" at DG CONNECT*

Moderator: *Luca De Biase* – *Chief Editor at Nova and Media Research Director at Re-Imagine Europa*

Q&A SESSION

12:30 CLOSING ADDRESS

*Dino Pedreschi* - *University of Pisa*

## E-GOVERNMENT SESSION

### 14:00 OPENING ADDRESS

*Jeffrey Sachs* - Director of the Center for Sustainable Development, Columbia University

### 14:15 KEYNOTE: *How Disinformation and Misinformation Target Reporters to Delegitimize Media and Destabilize Democracies*

*Mathew Ingram* - Chief Digital Writer, Columbia Journalism Review

### 14:30 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

*The effects of the new 'algorithmic power' of States on citizens' rights and the Rule of law*

*Jérôme Duberry*. Graduate Institute of International and development studies, Switzerland: Artificial intelligence, democracy, and the messiness of life

*Vanja Skoric* (Civic AI Lab University of Amsterdam, Netherlands), *Giovanni Sileno and Sennay Ghebreab* (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands): Legality, legitimacy, and instrumental possibility in human and computational governance for the public sector

### 14:40 EXPERT DEBATE: Trustworthiness of Digital Services

*Gry Hasselbalch* - Cofounder and Research Director, DataEthics.eu

*Nena Dokuzov* - Head of Project Group for new Economy and Blockchain Economy, Government of Slovenia

*Antonio A.Martino* - Professor Emeritus, University of Pisa and University of Salvador Buenos Aires.

*Norbert Sagstetter* – Acting Head of the Unit "eGovernment and Trust", DG CONNECT

Moderator and Chair: *Stefano Quintarelli* – former President of AGID- Scientific Committee Member, Associazione Copernicani

### Q&A SESSION

## DATA POLICY SESSION

### 15:40 The Third Way To Digital and AI: Presentation of the [Declaration on European Digital Rights and Principles](#)

How can we develop digital designs that help support our democratic processes by shaping the users' experience and behaviour to promote meaningful interaction and nurture constructive debate? How can we create a system that works for our values, fostering democracy and supporting civil rights?

In conversation with *Roberto Viola* – Director-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology  
Moderator: *Luca De Biase* - Media Research Director at Re-Imagine Europa

## TECHNOLOGY SESSION

15:55

### PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

*Technology plays a major role in shaping the political landscape*

*Jörg Rainer Noennig, Balazs Cserpes, Francesca Ceolia, Marie Malchow, Jan Barski and Klara-Maria Brandenburger. HCU Hamburg, Germany: The Migrant Integration Platform MICADO – A Tool for Social Integration and Cohesion*

*Eduardo Albrecht. Mery College, USA: The Informatized Body*

16:05

### EXPERT DEBATE: The Geopolitics of Technology

Keynote: *Pari Esfandiari* - Co-founder and President of the Global TechnoPolitics Forum

*David Bray* - Distinguish Fellow and Former Senior Director, GeoTech Center and GeoTech Commission at the Atlantic Council.

*Sean Kanhuk* - Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)

*Geoffrey Goodell* - Lecturer in Financial Computing, University College London

Moderator: *Gregory F. Treverton* - Former Chair of the U.S. National Intelligence Council, Professor of Practice at Dornsife College, University of Southern California

### Q&A SESSION

17:05

### PRESENTATION OF BEST PAPER AWARD

Closing address: *Stefano Quintarelli* - former President of AGID- Science Committee Member, Associazione Copernicani

## KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS



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