

REIMAGINE EUROPA

Building solutions together

2022

A YEAR IN REVIEW

PHOTO: JONATHAN BORBA

INTRODUCTION

A MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR MARIA JOÃO RODRIGUES, FIRST CHAIRPERSON OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

Dear Re-Imagine Europa friends and colleagues,

I am honoured to take on the role as the first Chairwoman of RIE Advisory Board, a position in which I will devote my best efforts in expanding our vision and the activities of our organization.

The year 2022 was marked by the return of war to the heart of Europe, a tragic event that undermined one of the core missions of the European project: the pursuit of peace. As an independent think-tank born to bring innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges of our society, we must focus on the great ambitions of our shared project, facing the conflict with courage and strategically thinking beyond it, to build a stronger, safer and fairer Europa.

Europe must build bridges with multiple actors to strengthen its role in the international arena while we shape a stronger and more engaging democracy. We should be able to provide effective solutions to the challenges of the digital and green transitions, as well as defining a fairer and more competitive economic system for Europe. These are the key

issues we are working on under the guidance of our Advisory Board and with the constant support of our extended network of partners and a variety of experts involved in our Task Forces on Democracy in a Digital Society (Democracy), Sustainable Food Systems and Innovation (Planet) and An Ideal Fiscal System for the 21st Century (Economy).

For 2023, we will reinforce our work with even more ambitious objectives in our Planet Task Force, lead the creation of the first European Narratives Observatory to fight disinformation online and participate with other leading organizations in the creation of a solution to enable the transition to a more inclusive, transparent and trustful deliberative democracy in Europe. As part of this project, we will launch an innovative series of citizen dialogues ahead of the 2024 European Elections.

Remembering the words of our President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, "whenever Europe is preparing for a new wave of enlargement – as it is happening now – Europe should be also prepare for deepening and make sure it has a stronger capacity to decide and act".

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RIE PLANET EVENT “ON THE GROUND: A DISCUSSION WITH EUROPEAN FARMERS”

On the 2nd of March 2022, Re-Imagine Europa’s Task Force on Sustainable Agriculture and Innovation organised the online event “On the Ground: A Discussion with European Farmers”. In addition to the Task Force’s Expert Committee, the discussion had the input of European farmers from diverse backgrounds, applying different farming systems.

The main topics were the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F) and the Green Deal. Achieving related objectives will require fundamental changes in many sectors of the European economy, especially agriculture. Participants discussed the role of innovation in the implementation of the F2F strategy and which impediments need to be overcome. In her keynote speech, **Irene Tolleret, Member of the European Parliament**, gave an overview of how agriculture and the European Green Deal are tools to face the reality of climate change. In the closing remarks, **Hilde Crevits, Flemish minister of Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture** also stated that “food and farming have always been at the centre of European integration and policy. Therefore, opinions and solutions from the European agriculture sector must be considered when we are reflecting on the future of Europe and the European food system”.



SOBIGDATA++ EVENT “TOWARDS A DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM OF TRUST: ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIETAL IMPLICATIONS”

On the 9th of March 2022, Re-Imagine Europa and SoBigData++ organised an online event to present **the White Paper “Towards a Digital Ecosystem of Trust: Ethical, Legal and Societal Implications”**, by **Jeroen van de Hoven, Giovanni Comandè, Salvatore Ruggieri, Josep Domingo-Ferrer, Francesca Musiani, Fosca Giannotti, Francesca Pratesi** and **Marc Stauch**, as part of the SoBigData++ project.

SoBigData++ is the largest pan-European social science data research project. Establishing a framework where data subjects can feel safe sharing their data is crucial to facilitating the development of data science in Europe. The white paper’s aim is precisely to discuss the best methods to promote data sharing, build privacy-preserving technologies, and foster data decentralisation and data altruism, aiming to develop a novel model for responsible digital innovation for Europe and like-minded countries. Besides the authors of the white paper, among the event participants were **Brando Benifei**, Member of the European Parliament, **Yvo Volman**, Head of the Data Policy and Innovation Unit of DG Connect at the European Commission, and **Gry Hasselbalch**, Senior Key AI Ethics Experts and Research Lead at INTouchAI.eu.



RE-IMAGINE EUROPA FORUM 2022

For the first time since 2019, Re-Imagine Europa convened its closest partners and advisors in Brussels from the 23rd to the 25th of May, 2022, for the **Re-Imagine Europa Forum 2022: Emotions, Narratives and the Future of Europe**. In order to explore these themes and build new solutions, the discussions were guided by keynote speeches from **Professor António Damásio** and **Professor Manuel Castells**, during the RIE Forum Gala.

In addition, two side events were organised by RIE Task Forces. RIE Planet Task Force organised a **Workshop on Future Narratives**, to discuss how changing priorities will affect narratives around sustainable food systems and innovation. A **high-level roundtable on Novel Systemic Solutions for the European Information and Media Ecosystem** was organised by the RIE Democracy Task Force.

Finally, the Forum was also marked by the announcement of **Professor Maria João Rodrigues as the first Chairperson of the Advisory Board of Re-Imagine Europa**, after being appointed during the annual meeting of the RIE's Advisory Board.



REPORT “COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON THE PHENOMENON OF ONLINE HATE SPEECH”

On June 18th, 2022, RIE’s Task Force on Democracy in a Digital Society delivered the **Report “Analisi comparativa sul fenomeno dell’istigazione all’odio online” (Comparative Analysis on the Phenomenon of Online Hate Speech)**, commissioned by the Anti-discrimination Commission of the Italian Senate (**Commissione antidiscriminazioni del Senato della Repubblica Italiana**).

The report was delivered on the highly symbolic date of the first International Day for Countering Hate Speech, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2021 due to the rising proliferation of the phenomenon worldwide. The report analysed the different attempts to devise a more efficient approach to regulation in several EU and non-EU countries, recommending diverse and more innovative methods of regulating access to data, algorithms and AI, and supporting a different business model to curb polarisation.



PLANET TASK FORCE LAUNCH OF THE PROJECT'S SECOND PHASE

In September 2022, the **second phase of RIE Planet Project** started with the **launch of the Task Force on Sustainable Food Systems and Innovation**. With the aim to be a forum that facilitates real dialogue among a wide range of stakeholders with different perspectives, the Task Force drives the debate beyond political stalemates while finding new shared pathways.

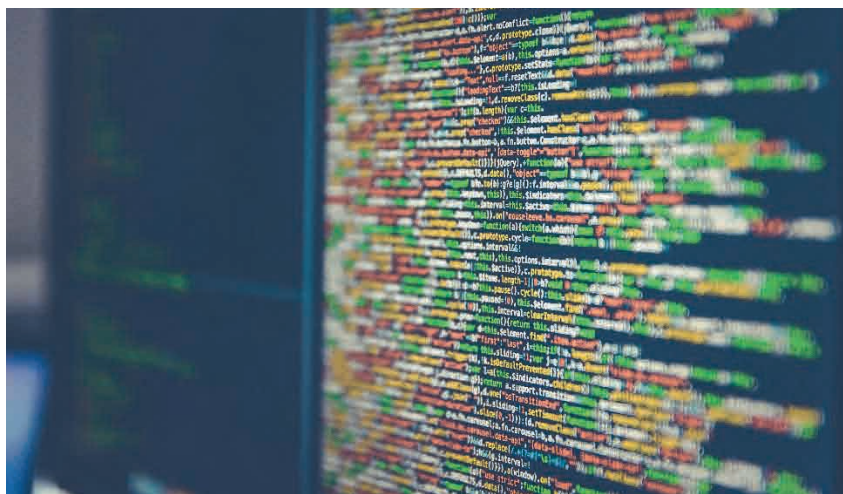
The relationship between food security and socio-political stability has been well-documented and has become painstakingly clear since the beginning of 2022. Europe needs more sustainable food systems to cope with dramatic changes to our natural environment, economic instability, and rapid societal transformation. Working with the **innovative Narrative Methodology** and a **network of over eighty experts** from different backgrounds and sectors, the Task Force focuses on specific issues: addressing the global need of building a robust and resilient food system and becoming a standard for sustainability while protecting biodiversity and reducing land use.



LAUNCH OF SOBIGDATA RI PPP

In October 2022, **SoBigData Research Infrastructure (RI) Preparatory Phase Project (PPP) was launched**. SoBigData RI is conceived to deliver more efficiently designed social mining experiments, adjusted and repeatable by non-data scientists' domain experts, by pushing the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable) and FACT (Fair, Accountable, Confidential and Transparent) principles.

SoBigData RI PPP aims to move the RI forward from the simple awareness of ethical and legal challenges in social mining to the development of concrete tools that operationalise ethics with value-sensitive design while incorporating values and norms for privacy protection, fairness, transparency, and pluralism. The project started in 2022 and will run until 2025.



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON DIGITAL AND DEMOCRACY 2022

The **2022 edition of the International Forum on Digital and Democracy (IFDaD)** took place in Rome on the 17th and 18th of November 2022, and was co-organised by **RIE** with **Associazione Copernicani, Fondazione Luigi Einaudi, and SoBig-Data++**. The IFDaD is a leading international event bringing together prominent thinkers from academia, policy, non-governmental organisations, and other stakeholders to debate and exchange information, ideas and good practices about Digitalization and Democracy. In recent years, the complex relationship between society and a rapidly digitalised communication ecosystem has become increasingly relevant in the debate about the protection of democracy. Among several of leading thinkers from academia, policy, and non-governmental organizations that participated in the 2022 hybrid format, there were **Věra Jourová**, Vice-President of the European Commission, **Romano Prodi**, former President of the European Commission and co-founder of the IFDaD, **Gabriela Ramos**, Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, **Jeffrey Sachs**, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, **Roberto Viola**, Director-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) at the European Commission, and **Vincenzo Aquaro**, Chief of Digital Government at the United Nations.



PLANET TASK FORCE EXPERT WORKSHOP ON REGULATORY APPROACHES TO SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATION

Considering the European Commission's upcoming legislative proposals on Pesticides, New Genomic Techniques (NGTs) and the Sustainable Food Systems Framework, Re-Imagine Europa organised an **Expert Workshop on Regulatory Approaches to Sustainability and Innovation**, on December 13th and 14th, 2022.

The workshop aimed to consider how sustainability might be incorporated or integrated along with safety considerations to involve both new and traditional breeding techniques within broader EU policies. The starting point was to recognise the need to imagine a new model for European agriculture shared by all stakeholders involved whilst ensuring social, economic, and environmental sustainability.



REPORT ON MEDIA ECOLOGY FOR BANCA INTESA SANPAOLO

Commissioned by the Italian Bank **Banca Intesa Sanpaolo**, Re-Imagine Europa published a **Report on Media Ecology in Italy**. In recent years, a multitude of messages of varying quality have flooded societies since the media went digital. Many scholars agree that a significant portion of those messages tend to become toxic.

There are no easy recipes to solve this issue. The report shows how the quality of the media ecosystem cannot improve without the intervention of political leaders capable of bringing much greater attention to the topic. Furthermore, any improvement of the media ecosystem will serve not only to support economy and society's resilience, but also the future prospects of the Italian political system.



UPDATES FROM RIE'S COMMUNITY

Regarding RIE's Advisory Board Members, we have seen Mr **Joe Elborn** step away from his position as Secretary General of the European Youth Forum (EYF) and from RIE's Advisory Board. In consequence, we welcomed to the Advisory Board Dr. **Inge Brees**, Director of Policy, Advocacy and External Affairs of the European Youth Forum.

In January 2022, we saw Ms **Irene Milleiro** become Director of Ashoka Spain, an NGO that identifies and connects the leaders of social innovation. Furthermore, Mr **Ángel Curriá** was announced as the next President of the Paris Peace Forum starting in March 2023, following a unanimous vote by the Executive Committee. In March 2022, Mr **Alain Lamassoure** was elected President of the Bureau of the Management Committee of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe. The Council of Europe established the observatory, and its goal is to provide a clear picture of the state of history teaching in Europe.

In May 2022, Ms **Isabel Mota** stepped away from the Presidency of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and, afterwards, was honoured by the President of the



Portuguese Republic with the Grand Cross of the Military Order of Christ, a Portuguese Honorific Order, which is given for distinguished service in the performance of functions in sovereign positions or public administration, and for the judiciary and diplomacy.

During the summer of 2022, Mr **Geoff Mulgan** released a new book titled "Another World is Possible" on reviving social and political imagination. RIE would like to warmly congratulate Ms **Monica Maggioni** for winning a Biagio Agnes Award in recognition of her work in Television Journalism. In November 2022, Prof. **Daria Tataj** accepted a new position as Chair of the constituting Supervisory Board of European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT): Culture and Creativity.

The Advisory Board of Re-Imagine Europa will meet again virtually for an Interim Meeting in 2023 and the next in-person Meeting will take place on the 1st and 2nd of February 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal.

RIE'S TEAM IS GROWING

Throughout 2022, RIE's team welcomed new colleagues on different working areas (in alphabetical order):



Ms Lidia Dimitrakopoulou,
Policy Officer (Planet)



Mr Grigoris Neofytou,
Policy Officer (Democracy,
Advisory Board and Partnerships)



Mr João Carlos Nunes,
Communications Officer

CONTACT

Re-Imagine Europa was founded by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing as the first “incubator” for new policy ideas. It works with members and partners to deliver world-class interdisciplinary and intersectoral research, and the facilitation of dialogue and engagement with national and international political processes.

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