TOWARDS A DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM OF TRUST:
ETHICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIETAL IMPLICATIONS

MARCH 9TH
CONFERENCE CALL (MICROSOFT TEAMS)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The European Union's vision of a digital ecosystem of trust focuses on fundamental values such as fairness, transparency, and accountability. Aside from the focus on innovation and novel technological solutions, this constitutes a relevant novelty in contrast with the corporate-regulated US model or the state-controlled technological landscape of China and Russia.

In the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the need for a strong transnational and safe data processing environment has emerged with great clarity. The assessment of factors that shape the digital ecosystem of trust and dictate responsible data science is at the core of this first SoBigData++ White Paper.

The European Union's willingness to propel technological development without compromising on legal and ethical standards (associated with the design, development, and implementation of new technologies) lead to a challenge: How are these two factors compatible? How can progress happen despite the barriers placed by the highest legal and ethical principles and requirements?

THE SOBIGDATA RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

SoBigData++ is a research infrastructure built with the aim to provide an integrated ecosystem for scientific discoveries and advanced applications of social data mining, promoting open-source methods and open, ethical datasets to support a new European approach to digital technologies.

PROGRAMME

EVENT CHAIR: **Luca De Biase** - Founder and Chief editor at Nòva24 – Il Sole 24 Ore, Media & Research Director at Re-Imagine Europa

15.00 – 15.30 **Towards a Digital Ecosystem of Trust: Ethical, Legal and Societal Implications**

- **Giovanni Comandé -** Full Professor in Comparative Private Law at Scuola Superiore S. Anna - Pisa (Italy)
- **Josep Domingo-Ferrer -** Professor of Computer Science and ICREA-Acadèmia Researcher at Universitat Rovira i Virgili - Tarragona (Catalonia, Spain)
- **Francesca Pratesi -** Post-Doc Fellow at the Computer Science Department at the University of Pisa and Research Member of the Information Science and Technology Institute of the Italian National Research Council (ISTI-CNR)- Pisa (Italy)

15.30 – 16.00 **The Different Paths of EU, US, China, and Russia Regarding data Ethics and Legislation.**

- **Yvo Volman** - Head of the Data Policy and Innovation Unit of DG Connect -European Commission
- **Jeroen van den Hoven** - Full Professor of Ethics at the Technical University Delft and Chair of the European Group of Ethics (EGE) - Delft (The Netherlands)

16.00 – 16.30 **The European Data Strategy and The Role of Ethics**

- **Gry Hasselbalch** - Senior Key AI Ethics Expert and Research Lead at INTouchAI.eu - Cofounder and Director of Research at DataEthics.eu
- **Maria Savona -** Professor of Applied Economics at the Department of Economics at LUISS University, Rome and Professor of Economics of innovation at SPRU, Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, UK.

16.30 – 17.00 **Trustworthy AI-assisted Decision Making: the Legal, Ethical and Technological Research Challenges**

- **Fosca Giannotti** - Professor of Computer Science at Scuola Normale Superiore and Researcher at the Information Science and Technology Institute "A. Faedo" of the National Research Council - Pisa (Italy)
- **Virginia Dignum -** Professor in Social and Ethical AI at Umeå universitet - Umeå (Sweden) -Wallenberg chair on Responsible Artificial Intelligence - Program Director WASP-HS
- **Brando Benifei** - Member of the European Parliament, President of the Spinelli Group and Vice President of the European Movement International

17:00 – 17:20 **Q&A + Closing remarks by the Chair**

SPEAKERS

ROBERTO VIOLA

Roberto Viola is Director-General of DG CONNECT (Directorate General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology) at the European Commission. He was the Deputy Director-General of DG CONNECT, European Commission from 2012 to 2015.

Roberto Viola served as Chairman of the European Radio Spectrum Policy group (RSPG) from 2012 to 2013, as Deputy Chairman in 2011 and Chairman in 2010. He was a member of the BEREC Board (Body of European Telecom Regulators), and Chairman of the European Regulatory Group (ERG). He held the position of Secretary General in charge of managing AGCOM, from 2005 to 2012. Prior to this, he served as Director of Regulation Department and Technical Director in AGCOM from 1999 to 2004.

From 1985 to 1999 he served in various positions including Head of Telecommunication and Broadcasting Satellite Services at the European Space Agency (ESA). Roberto Viola holds a Degree in Electronic Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA).

FOSCA GIANNOTTI

Fosca Giannotti is a professor of Computer Science at Scuola Normale Superiore and an associate at the Information Science and Technology Institute "A. Faedo" of the National Research Council, Pisa, Italy. She has been recently awarded the prestigious European Research Council Advanced Grant "XAI – Science and Technology for the Explanation of AI Decision Making". She is among core PI scientists of the two AI networks of Excellence: TAILOR and HumaneAI_Net.

Professor Giannotti is a pioneering scientist in mobility data mining, social network analysis, privacy-preserving data mining, and responsible AI. She co-leads the Pisa KDD Lab - Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining Laboratory, a joint research initiative of the University of Pisa and ISTI-CNR, founded in 1994 as one of the earliest research labs on data mining. She is a recognized international authority in social mining from Big Data: smart cities, human dynamics, social, trustworthy AI.

She is the author of more than 300 papers. She has coordinated tens of European projects and industrial collaborations. Professor Giannotti is deputy-director of SoBigData, the European research infrastructure on Big Data Analytics and Social Mining, an ecosystem of tens cutting edge European research centres providing an open platform for interdisciplinary data science and data-driven innovation. On March 8, 2019, she has been featured as one of the 19 Inspiring women in AI, BigData, Data Science, Machine Learning by KDnuggets.com, the leading site on AI, Data mining, and Machine Learning.

JEROEN VAN DEN HOVEN

Jeroen van den Hoven is university professor and full professor of Ethics and Technology at Delft University of Technology. He is founding Editor in Chief of Ethics and Information Technology (Springer Nature) He was the founding scientific director of 3TU.

Centre for Ethics and Technology (2007-2013). In 2009, he won the World Technology Award for Ethics as well as the IFIP prize for ICT and Society for his work in Ethics and Information Technology. Jeroen van den Hoven was founder, and until 2016 Program Chair, of the Dutch Research Council Program on Responsible Innovation and advised the European Commission on Responsible Innovation in the Horizon2020 R&D Program. In 2017 he was appointed as a member of the European Group on Ethics (EGE) in Science and New Technologies to the president of the European Commission. In 2022 he was reappointed for 3 years.

He published widely on Ethics and Digital Technology and Ethics of Innovation, e.g. Information Technology and Moral Philosophy (Cambridge University Press, 2008), Designing in Ethics (eds. Van den Hoven, Miller, Pogge, Cambridge University Press, 2017), Evil Online (with Dean Cocking, Blackwell, 2018)

VIRGINIA DIGNUM

Virginia Dignum is Professor of Responsible Artificial Intelligence at Umeå University, Sweden and associated with the TU Delft in the Netherlands. She is the director of WASP-HS, the Wallenberg Program on Humanities and Society for AI, Autonomous Systems and Software, the largest Swedish national research program on fundamental multidisciplinary research on the societal and human impact of AI. She is a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, and a Fellow of the European Artificial Intelligence Association (EURAI). Her current research focus is on the specification, verification and monitoring of ethical and societal principles for intelligent autonomous systems. She is committed to policy and awareness efforts towards the responsible development and use of AI, as member of the European Commission High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence, the working group on Responsible AI of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), the World Economic Forum's Global Artificial Intelligence Council, lead for UNICEF's guidance for AI and children, the Executive Committee of the IEEE Initiative on Ethically Aligned Design, and as founding member of ALLAI, the Dutch AI Alliance. Her book "Responsible Artificial Intelligence: developing and using AI in a responsible way" was published by Springer-Nature in 2019.

PROFESSOR GIOVANNI COMANDÉ

Full Professor of Private Comparative Law at Scuola Superiore S. Anna Pisa, Italy. PhD. SSSA, LLM Harvard Law School, Founder and Director of the LIDER-LAB (www.lider-lab.it). Attorney at law (Pisa since 1995, New York Bar since 1997). Mediator and mediation trainer, he has taught in and visited numerous universities in the world.

Scientific director of many research projects funded by MIUR, CNR, ESF, EU, the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Public Administrations, public and private companies, and organizations. Author of 6 monographs, he published more than 200 articles and notes in major law reviews.

He is external scientific and ethical expert evaluator for the EU Commission, National research Foundation – Research and Innovation Support and Advancement of South Africa, the University of Haifa (Israel); the Italian Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca; The Hebrew University Jerusalem; the Fond Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture.

He is currently a Consultative Member of the American Law Institute for Information Privacy (www.ali.org); Member of the European Group on Tort Law for drafting Principles of European Tort Law (PETL); Member of the European Center for Law and Insurance (www.ectil.org, Wien); Member of The European Law Institute (ELI) www.europeanlawinstitute.eu.

He is founder and president of Smartex s.r.l. (www.smartex.eu), a Spin Off of Scuola Superiore

GRY HASSELBALCH

Gry Hasselbalch PhD. is an author and scholar of data technology, society, ethics and power. She is co-founder of the European think/do tank DataEthics.eu and Research Director of DataEthics.eu Research.

Gry was a member of the EU High-Level Expert Group on AI that developed EU's AI ethics guidelines, coined the term "Trustworthy AI" and contributed directly to the EU's AI strategy. Today she is the Senior Key Expert on AI Ethics in the European Commission's International Outreach for a Human-Centric Approach to Artificial Intelligence (InTouch.AI.eu) project that aims to support the Commission in setting up a global framework for ethics and trust. She is furthermore currently leading the Data Pollution & Power Initiative at the University of Bonn's Institute of Science and Ethics' Sustainable AI Lab.

Gry's latest book Data Ethics of Power – A Human Approach in the Big Data and AI Era (Edward Elgar 2021) provides an innovative ethical framework for studying and governing Big Data and Artificial Intelligence with a focus on power dynamics. Her influential book Data Ethics- The New Competitive Advantage published in 2016 in Danish and English and co-authored with Danish journalist Pernille Tranberg was the first book to use the term data ethics defining it as a response to the social and ethical implications of big data business models and practices.

JOSEP DOMINGO-FERRER

Josep Domingo-Ferrer is a Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and an ICREA-Acadèmia Researcher at Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Catalonia, where he is the founding director of CYBERCAT-Center for Cybersecurity Research of Catalonia. His research interests are in data privacy, data security, statistical disclosure control and cryptographic protocols, with a focus on the conciliation of privacy, security and functionality. He is an IEEE Fellow and an ACM Distinguished Scientist.
Sant'Anna.

FRANCESCA PRATESI

Francesca Pratesi received the MS degree and the Ph.D. in computer science from Pisa University, Italy, respectively in 2013 and in 2017. She is a Researcher at Information Science and Technology Institute of the National Research Council in Pisa since December 2021 and a member of the Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining Lab, a joint research group with the Computer Science Department of University of Pisa. Her research interests include data mining, data privacy and privacy risk assessment, mainly in spatio-temporal data. Recently, she broadens her interest, moving towards the Ethics-by-Design paradigm and Trustworthy AI.

MARIA SAVONA

Maria Savona is Professor of Applied Economics at the Department of Economics at LUISS University, Rome and Professor of Economics of innovation at SPRU, Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex, UK.

Economist, with main interests in the economics of innovation, employment and wage inequality; economics of data value; the structural change, and particularly the deindustrialisation and emergence of global value chains in services; the economics and policy of innovation in services; barriers to innovation. She has published and advised widely in these areas. Former Director of SPRU MSc in Sustainable Development.

She was previously at the University of Cambridge, UK, Universities of Strasbourg and Lille 1, France. She has led and co-led several grants funded by the EC, ESRC, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Greater London Authority, IDRC. She has advised the IADB; ECLAC; UN ESCAP; OECD; NESTA; BEIS, DETI.

She is an Editor for Research Policy, Journal of Evolutionary Economics, Economia Politica, and a former member of the High Level Expert Group on the Impact of Digital Transformation on EU Labour Markets for the European Commission.

BRANDO BENIFEI

Brando Benifei, European Federalist, is from La Spezia, Italy, and is the Head of Delegation of the Italian S&D MEPs.

His main areas of work are Internal Market and Consumers Protection, Employment and Social Affairs, and Constitutional Affairs.

He is rapporteur for the Single Market Program and shadow rapporteur for the European Social Fund Plus. He is active on youth policies, digitalisation and rights of persons with disabilities.

In the previous term, he was responsible for the European Solidarity Corps, for the Post-Arab Spring in the MENA region and for key reports on the social inclusion and integration of refugees into the EU labour market, as well as youth employment policy such as the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative. He was also co-chair of the Youth Intergroup and vice-chair of the Disability Intergroup.

In 2018, he received the MEP Award for his work on Employment and Social Affairs issues, for his work on youth unemployment. In 2016, Forbes included him in its annual 30 under-30 most influential in EU Politics list.

MODERATOR: LUCA DE BIASE

Luca De Biase is chief editor at Nòva24 – Il sole 24 Ore, the innovation section in the main financial newspaper in Italy, which he founded in 2005 and chief editor at La Vita Nòva, award winning tablet magazine. Luca is "innovation journalism" visiting professor at Padua University and "digital humanities" visiting professor at Pisa University; member of the Scientific Committee at master in sciences communications at Sissa Trieste.

He contributes to the Edge.org Annual Question, since 2012. He is co-founder of the association ItaliaStartup, member of the Advisory Board of Human Foundation, member of the Board of Trustees at Nexa and member of the Commission for rights and duties on the internet, Chamber of Deputies at the Italian Parliament. He has been member of the Big Data task force at Ministero Istruzione, Università, Ricerca and of the permenent committee for innovation and the Italian digital agenda, 2014-2015, advisor to the Prime Minister for the Digital Agenda in 2013-14. In 2012, Luca has been working with the Italian Ministry for Economic Development in a task force aimed at improving the innovative-startup ecosystem. He has been a member of the Digital Agenda Scientific Commission in Emilia Romagna, and of the Startup commission in Regione Lazio and Assolombarda from 2013-16.

REIMAGINE
EUROPA
RIE