

The Digital Governance Challenge Project



A scientific partnership between Dauphine-PSL's Governance and Regulation Chair and the Florence School of Regulation at the European University Institute

AT THE ORIGIN OF THE PROJECT: TWO SWEEPING TRANSFORMATIONS

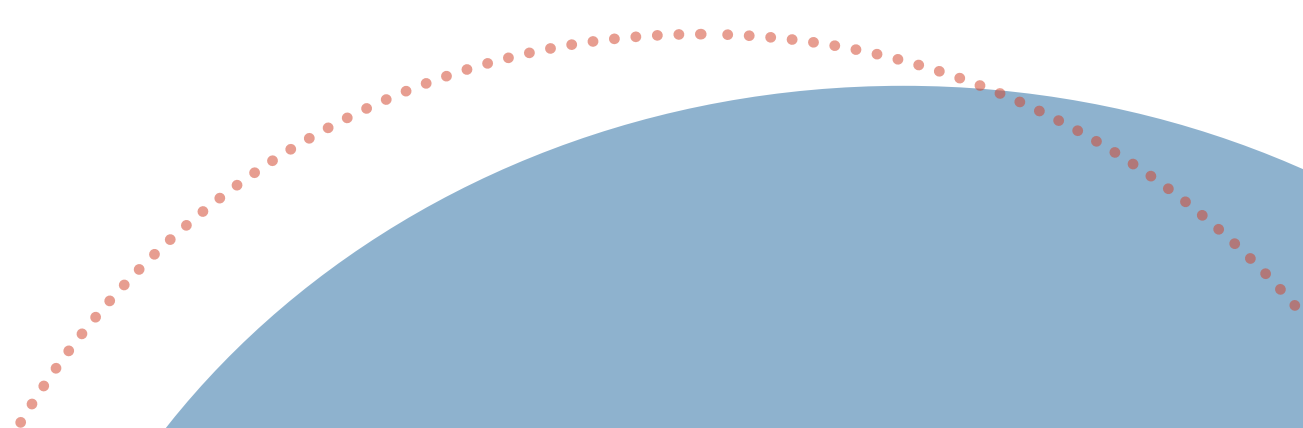
Digital resources are central for supporting coordination mechanisms and governance modes that are richer and more agile, targeted, and decentralized. They lead to a reexamination of industries and markets coordination mechanisms, in organisations or within communities, or at a macro-social scale: the functioning of democracies, the government's intervention mode, international relations, etc.

At the same time, **digitalisation carries with it significant socio-economic challenges** in the realms of collective security,

economic dominance, social and territorial disparities, political manipulation, etc.

We need a better understanding of these opportunities and challenges to fully grasp the implications and requirements of the digital revolution.

Such a knowledge is necessary to manage these changes more effectively and to enable economic, social, and political players to master them.



A NETWORK OF COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS

The interaction of **contributions from a wide spectrum of academic disciplines** with the accumulated experience of **public and private decision-makers** appears to be prerequisite for effective assessments of the state of knowledge, and for imagining the scope of solutions to explore.

50 experts from various complementary backgrounds—academics from European and American Universities, senior executives from large companies and start-ups, and governmental decision-makers at both the national and European level—contributed to an initial phase of reflection.

The following issues were addressed during 8 meetings held in 2021:

- **New democratic challenges and opportunities**
- **The transformation of public policies**
- **The impacts of digitalisation on social and civic life**
- **Regulating the digital economy**
- **Sovereignty, security, and rights**
- **The prospects for a new international order**

These exchanges allowed us to identify **3 main themes**:

- **Analysing the socio-economic transformations**, which are themselves organised around challenges to social cohesion in relation to many centrifugal forces that promote fragmentation. These challenges also refer to the cultural transformations made necessary by new ways of defining identity, intimacy, or community, as well as ethical and social examinations of innovation.
- **Developing socio-technical governance solutions** to address the security risks to the digital infrastructure underlying all dimensions of collective life and many aspects of private life; thinking about how to keep these info-structures open and accessible to prevent the risks of misappropriation, but also how to implement governance mechanisms to control the production and use of data, and lastly how to define accountability mechanisms for the multiple stakeholders in large digital systems.
- **Reimagining organisational and institutional arrangements** to satisfy the need for a renewal of the conceptions of individual rights and collective decision-making mechanisms (digital constitutionalism), for responsive regulatory frameworks to mediate public and private intervention in keeping with the pace of innovation and the nature of the processes fomenting its dynamics, and for new global regulatory frameworks.

AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME

The initiative intends to rely on this initial assessment to:

- **Erect the pillars for an approach to governance in digital societies aligned with European values.**
- **Regularly publish “white papers”** with updates on the identified issues and explanations of the state of knowledge to inform the public debate and collective decision-making.
- **Identify areas and levers for research programmes** to document the unknown or explore innovative solutions.
- **Develop a network of partnerships** between university laboratories, businesses, governmental bodies and international organisations to support and inform a conversation throughout Europe and beyond.



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Being a partner of the **Digital Governance Challenge** project means:

- **Financially contributing to a secretariat devoted** to channelling the efforts of a network of international experts.
- Participating in **high-level workshops** contributing to the collective reflection while receiving **preferential access** to its findings.
- Supporting and contributing **to collaborative research programmes** covering various aspects of a subject.
- Engaging in the delivery of an infrastructure and initiatives to facilitate **dissemination of the results** of this societal conversation to various audiences.
- Underwriting a **corporate sponsorship** of a European institution and reaping **the resulting benefits**.

