



Our data-driven era is fraught with policy challenges, requiring a bold change of perspective regarding data governance. A new organization - the Datasphere Initiative aims to disrupt traditional debate on data policy and catalyze human-centric technical, policy, and institutional innovations.

Data is growing at an accelerated pace and increasingly underpins, affects, and reflects most human activities. However, legitimate concerns have emerged regarding security threats, economic imbalances, and human rights abuses that can impact a society increasingly dependent upon data. This is leading to a growing number of unilateral data governance measures across the globe, and an unequal and siloed policy debate on the future.

“Data is paramount both to inform individual decisions and to address major global challenges. A new concerted effort is needed to ensure the technological revolution does not go to waste and no one is left on the sidelines” said Lorryne Porciuncula, Executive Director, Datasphere Initiative.

Incubated at the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network since 2021 and launched on the occasion of the G7 Multistakeholder Meeting under the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Germany in April 2022, with a diverse multistakeholder backing, the Datasphere Initiative will promote a new level of transnational cooperation and mission-oriented partnerships to build agile frameworks that responsibly unlock the value of data for all.

Convening panels of policy leaders from the OECD, UN ECLAC, UNCTAD, governments of Japan, Germany, and Switzerland, philanthropic organizations such as the Hewlett Foundation and Omidyar Network, as well business leaders from Microsoft and Google, such as the co-inventor of the Internet Vint Cerf, the message from the Datasphere Initiative launch event on April 5, was clear: now is the time to come together to build a collaboratively governed Datasphere and experiment responsibly with new governance frameworks to deal with major global challenges.

“The concept of the Datasphere provides a holistic approach to the complex dynamic interactions between digital data, human groups and norms. Building digital societies that benefit everyone requires an innovative systems approach to data governance, beyond traditional regulatory instruments”, said Bertrand de La Chapelle, Chief Vision Officer, Datasphere Initiative, and Executive Director of the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network”.

About the Datasphere Initiative

The Datasphere Initiative is a global network of stakeholders building agile frameworks to responsibly unlock the value of data for all.

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