Africa Forum on Sandboxes for Data Online Kick-Off Workshop

Sandboxes are collaborative environments that test innovative technologies and data practices against regulatory frameworks, or experiment with new uses, capabilities, and means of governing data. While the use of sandboxes has been spreading in Africa, capacity building, sharing of good practices, and active testing are still needed in order to meet its full potential to address data issues across borders in the continent.

Launched on the occasion of the Africa Law Tech Festival in Nairobi, Kenya on July 12th, 2023, the Datasphere Initiaitve's Africa Forum on Sandboxes for Data will convene leaders in government, industry, academia, civil society, and the technical community, to harness local perspectives and create trusted data-sharing solutions to address cross-border challenges in health, finance, sustainability, and AI in the continent.

An online kick-off workshop will take place on **July 18, 2023 / 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm CEST / 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm UTC / 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm EAT**. The event will provide an opportunity for the Datasphere Initiative and project partners to present the project and engagement opportunities to professionals across the region.

The event will also launch the Online Course on Sandboxes for Data which provides policymakers and shapers with the necessary skills to realize operational and regulatory sandboxes.

Agenda (EAT)

4pm - 4.20pm   **Introduction to the Africa Forum on Sandboxes for Data**
The Datasphere Initiative will welcome attendees and provide a presentation of the Africa Forum on Sandboxes for Data and outline engagement opportunities for actors across the region.
- **Lorrayne Porciuncula**, Executive Director, Datasphere Initiative
- **Justin Bryant**, Lead Global Forum on Sandboxes, Datasphere Initiative

4.20pm - 4.45pm   **Launch of the Online Course on Sandboxes for Data**
The Datasphere Initiative will deliver a presentation on an online course on sandboxes for data and share how policy professionals can use these resources to develop new agile regulatory frameworks.
- **Lorrayne Porciuncula**, Executive Director, Datasphere Initiative
- **Liezl Kruger**, Lead Learning Designer, Noodle

4.45pm - 5.20pm   **Responsibly unlocking the value of data for all in Africa: Opportunities and Challenges**
Participants will be invited to share their views on current data-sharing policy and technical approaches across the region and share their expectations on how the Africa Forum can help connect efforts and support innovative approaches.

Discussion questions:

1. How and to what extent is an interconnected African continent important to advancing prosperity and sustainable development over the next half century?

2. What role might sandboxes be able to play in capturing African realities and perspectives in digital policy to the extent that they are currently not reflected in national and regional instruments, or in the emerging global consensus?

3. Where are the knowledge gaps when it comes to understanding the role that Africa-centered data governance frameworks play in Africa's digital development?

4. You've been hearing us discuss our vision and concept for the Africa Forum on Sandboxes for Data, but we want and need your thoughts and voices to inform this effort. What are we missing?

5.20pm - 5.30pm   **Closing**
The Datasphere Initiative will close the workshop and outline the next steps.

- **Justin Bryant**, Global Sandboxes Forum Lead, Datasphere Initiative
- **Chris Maloney**, Program Officer in the Gender Equity and Governance Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation