DATASPHERE INITIATIVE

Digital Public Infrastructure

Environment

NGO

Datasphere Governance Atlas 2025

Funders

AI

Government

Health

Shaping Data Governance in a Changing Global Order

About the Datasphere Initiative

The Datasphere Initiative is a think and do tank that catalyzes meaningful dialogues and co-creates actionable and innovative approaches to respond to data challenges and harness opportunities across borders. Our mission is to equip organizations to responsibly unlock the value of data for all. For more information, visit www.thedatasphere.org or contact info@thedatasphere.org.

About this report

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Citation and copyright

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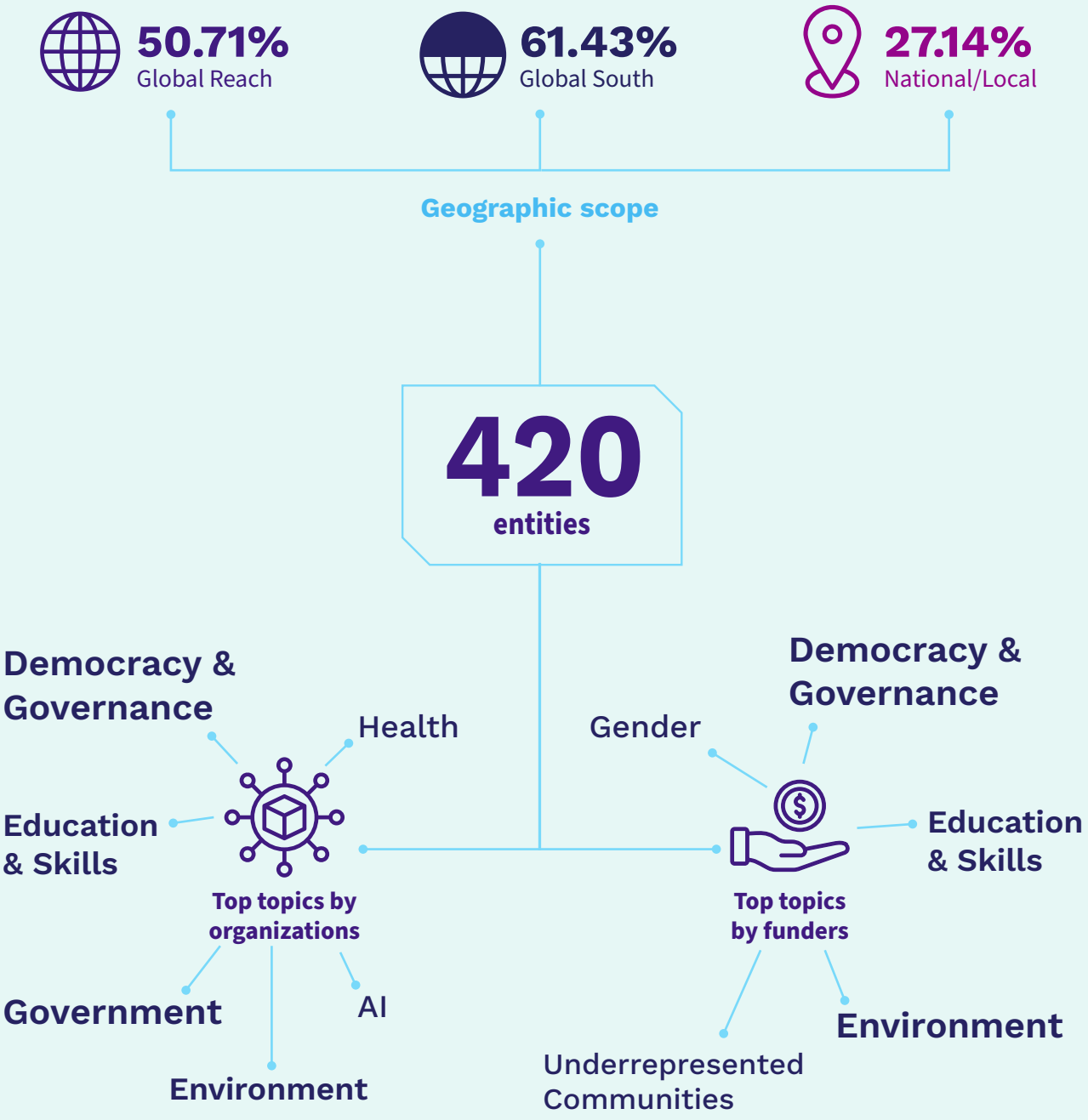
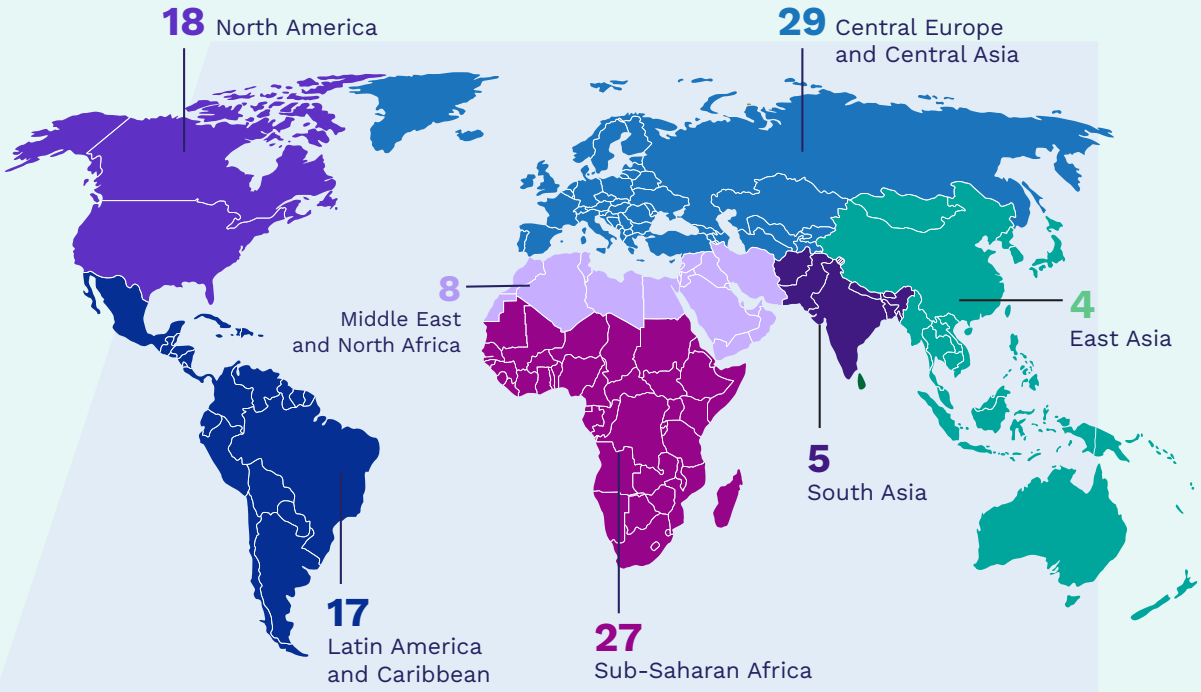
Executive Summary

As the data governance field matures, the **Datasphere Governance Atlas 2025** offers a comprehensive mapping of **420 entities**, **358 organizations** and **62 funders**, working across thematic, geographic, and sectoral boundaries. This year's edition shifts its focus from static mapping to dynamic field-building, aiming to surface insights, identify gaps, and foster coordination in a rapidly evolving ecosystem.



All data collected for both the Datasphere Governance Atlas 2022 and 2025 Atlases is now housed within the **Datasphere Observatory**, a public-facing platform that extends beyond the profiled Atlas entities. In total, the Observatory includes **778 organizations**, combining the 420 profiled in this edition with additional actors identified through the mapping process. As a **first-of-its-kind field-building tool**, the Observatory supports a more comprehensive understanding of the ecosystem while enabling ongoing knowledge generation, community connection, and learning. Its ultimate goal is to facilitate access to collective intelligence and support coordination among implementers and funders alike, empowering better and more inclusive strategic engagement, policy action, and technology development for the digital society.



Datasphere Observatory

Major categories:

1. People and Communities
2. Planet and Sustainability
3. Norms and Trust
4. Economy and Development
5. Infrastructure and Technology

The analysis contained in the Atlas reveals a growing yet fragmented landscape: a surge in actors and innovation met with underfunding, siloed action, and limited cross-sector alignment. Despite these challenges, civil society, Global South actors, and youth-led initiatives are emerging as strategic shapers of the data governance field. At the same time, new technical and institutional tools are offering hopeful pathways forward — if they can scale.

10 strategic takeaways

1 **The data governance field is expanding, but fragmented and underfunded**
A growing number of actors are entering the space, yet most remain isolated and under-resourced. Without intentional coordination and funding coalitions, duplication and inefficiencies will persist.

2 **Civil society and coalitions are a force to be reckoned with**
NGOs (44.1%) and coalitions (16.4%) are shaping agendas on key issues like AI, gender, and climate. Their role in field-building and accountability must be sustained through investment and participation.

3 **The Global South is not just a beneficiary, but a shaper**
Over 60% of mapped entities focus on the Global South. These actors are not passive recipients but co-creators of norms and models, demanding recognition as standard-setters.

4 **Youth and children are builders of the data future**
14% of organizations work with or for young people, who are often left out of governance discussions. Intergenerational approaches are needed to future-proof policy.

5 **Infrastructure is central to governance**
Data infrastructures such as repositories, commons, and digital public infrastructure are becoming key enablers. Governance must be embedded in both architecture and institutional design.

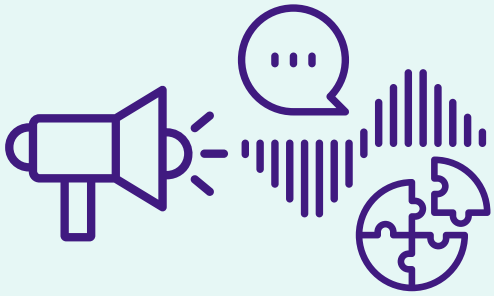
6 **AI, health, and climate are governance test beds**
These topics are among the most common and urgent cross-cutting themes. They demand experimental governance models like sandboxes and collaborative policy spaces.

7 **Data is both a sustainability tool and an environmental liability**
While environmental data is key to climate solutions, the ecological cost of data infrastructure and AI must be addressed in policy design.

8 **Diversity and inclusion matter more than ever**
Over 23% of entities focus on gender, intersectionality, or marginalized communities. Inclusive governance is essential for legitimacy and effectiveness.

9 **New governance tools need support to scale**
Sandboxes, PETs, data trusts, and other governance innovations exist, but they need scaling, interoperability, and legitimacy.

10 **Organizations and actors working on data governance need more spaces to share and coordinate**
The ecosystem lacks sufficient platforms for alignment. Coordination mechanisms are essential to harmonize efforts and ensure collective impact.



A call for new voices, new tools, and a hopeful mindset

The data governance ecosystem stands at a critical juncture. As polarization and power asymmetries grow, the need for inclusive, adaptive, and globally coordinated data governance has never been more urgent. This moment requires deliberate field-building efforts: from plural institutions and shared vocabularies to innovative tools and cross-sectoral trust.

The Atlas calls for bold, collective imagination. It urges policymakers, funders, and communities to embrace hope not as optimism, but as strategy — a commitment to co-create governance systems that center justice, equity, and shared agency. It is time for a unifying, mission-driven vision to align investments, reduce asymmetries, and unlock the transformative power of data.

In a world shaped by data and AI, hope is not optional. It is our most powerful tool to shape the future we want, together.

Introduction

The Datasphere Governance Atlas 2025 explores data governance in a changing world. Reflecting on current geopolitics, the state of digital development, and how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming our relationship with data and with each other, the report highlights how the data governance ecosystem has vastly evolved since the inception of the Datasphere Initiative in 2022.

The report shares questions, identifies gaps and suggests opportunities to drive a bold change of perspective regarding how and why the value of data needs to be responsibly unlocked for all. Unlocking this value requires connecting data governance to broader debates around Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as the foundation for inclusive digital transformation. It also means recognizing that as AI and generative AI accelerate the production and circulation of data, they are simultaneously transforming how data is governed, used, and monetized. Across sectors and regions, a diverse set of actors—governments, companies, philanthropies, communities, and civil society—are influencing not only how data and AI are leveraged to extract and create value, but also how the data governance ecosystem itself is being shaped: how it is being built, whose interests it reflects, and what norms and principles guide it.

Mapping a Growing Field

Data governance is rapidly evolving into a distinct, interdisciplinary field. The increasing centrality of data to all domains of life—economic, social, environmental, and political—has accelerated the growth of actors, frameworks, and initiatives that engage with its governance. Since the release of the first Datasphere Governance Atlas in 2022,[1] the data governance ecosystem has continued to expand and diversify, encompassing not only established institutions and global frameworks, but also new stakeholders, emerging narratives, and experimental tools for managing data across borders, sectors, and technologies.

As data permeates every aspect of our lives, its governance has become more complex. Today, this includes not only the rules and procedures for data handling, analysis, and use, but also the navigation of policies, regulations, and agreements shaped by diverse actors with distinct perspectives and priorities. These may include advocates for privacy and user rights, champions of open data, promoters of data sovereignty, or enablers of DPI. Each contributes to the field with their own language, objectives, and vision of how data should serve society.

[1] Datasphere Initiative (2022). The Datasphere Governance Atlas 2022, Datasphere Initiative.

Understanding how these actors relate to one another is essential to shaping more effective and collaborative governance frameworks.[2] Some align around individual or collective data rights,[3] others around free data flows or trusted data exchanges. These relationships help define the norms, standards, and infrastructures underpinning data governance across geographies and sectors.

The 2025 edition of the Datasphere Governance Atlas contributes to mapping and shaping this growing field by identifying and profiling a wide range of organizations and funders, and analyzing the trends, themes, and dynamics that influence their work. By offering a structured view of this landscape, the Atlas supports efforts to foster collaboration, establish shared standards, and advance responsible, inclusive governance frameworks.

From a policy standpoint, discussions around data governance have traditionally revolved around privacy and data protection since the late 1970s. By the late 1990s, it evolved into a trade matter, subsequently expanding to intersect with numerous other policy domains. However, progress in establishing a shared language for systematic discussions on data governance and evaluating its economic, social, and political significance has been limited within multilateral forums. This trend has, however, changed with the implementation of European Union General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR),[4] the EU Artificial Intelligence Act[5] and the most recent EU Data Act[6] and Data Governance Act.[7] Other norms and governmental interventions also feed and connect the governance landscape, particularly by addressing AI-based systems. These measures recognize new institutions such as data stewards and data sandboxes, set requirements for algorithmic transparency in AI, and regulate emerging AI-driven "future technologies." They also introduce sector-specific frameworks, as illustrated by health-focused legislation like Washington's My Health My Data Act,[8] along with new standards for managing financial data.

This expanded scope of the 2025 Atlas reflects how data governance increasingly intersects with a wide array of societal challenges, from digital rights to environmental sustainability. It also highlights how far the field has come in the past three decades, with the proliferation of actors, tools, and norms advancing this agenda across fields such as healthcare, education, transportation, gender equity, and climate action.

By strengthening the foundations of this evolving landscape, the Datasphere Governance Atlas 2025 supports a more coherent, informed, and globally relevant data governance ecosystem—one that reflects the growing importance of data governance as a changing field and a cornerstone of digital transformation.

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2 Datasphere Initiative (2022). Data Governance and the Datasphere Literature Review, Datasphere Initiative

3 My Data Global, Connected by Data, Datasphere Initiative, Aapti Institute (2023). In this together Combining individual and collective strategies to confront data power. My Data Global.

4 European Union (2023). Complete Guide to GDPR compliance. General Data Protection Regulation. https://gdpr.eu/

5 European Parliament (2023). EU AI Act: first regulation on artificial intelligence, European Parliament.

6 European Commission (2025). Data Act Explained A comprehensive overview of the Data Act, including its objectives and how it works in practice, European Commission.

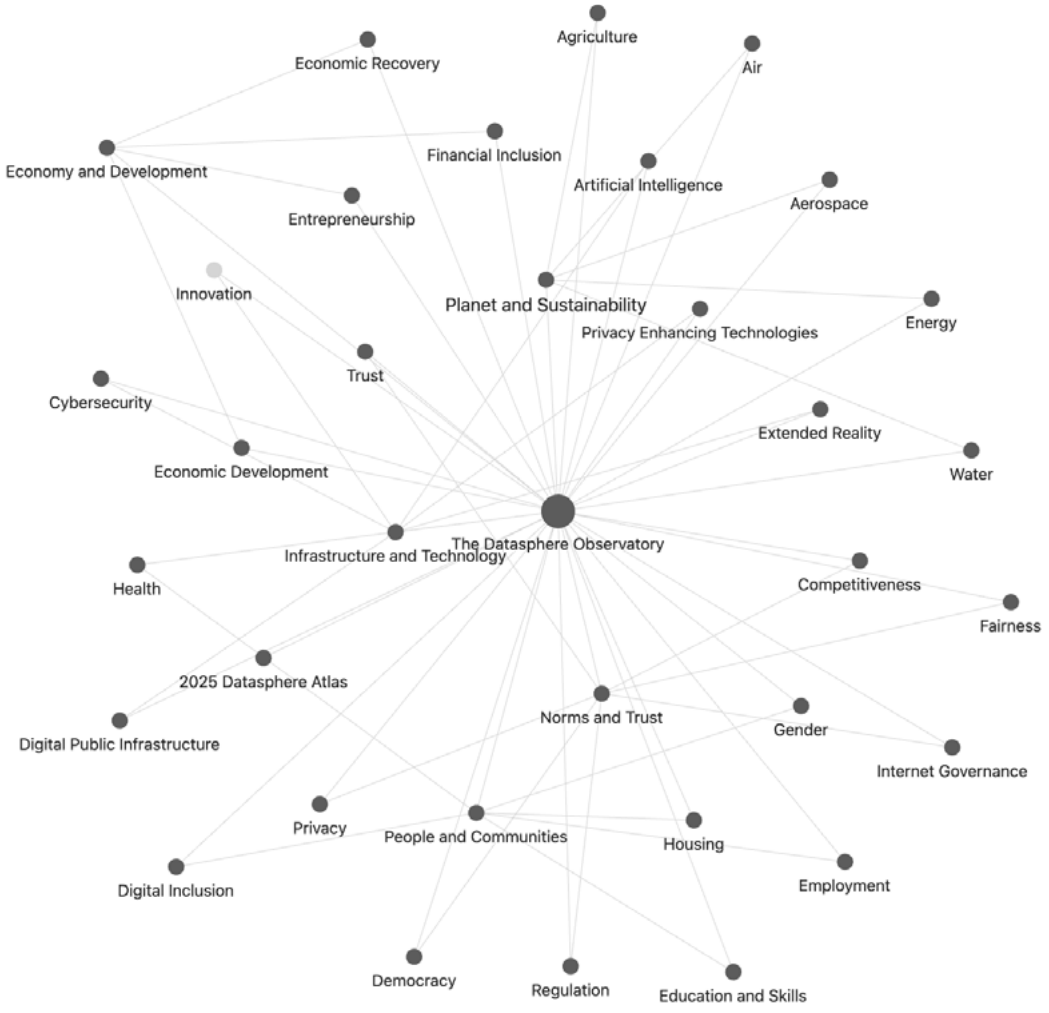
7 European Commission (2023). Data Governance Act Explained. Shaping Europe's digital future, European Commission.

8 Washington State Office of the Attorney General (2023). Protecting Washingtonians' Personal Health Data and Privacy, Washington State Office of the Attorney General.

The Datasphere Observatory Tool

The report is accompanied by the **Datasphere Observatory**. Building on the Datasphere Governance Atlas released in 2022,[9] this online tool provides a virtual mapping of organizations and funders working on data governance. The platform includes a total of 778 organizations, of which 420 have been categorized and profiled in depth. The analysis of these 420 organizations forms the basis of this Atlas. The mapping aims to help support opportunities for analysis of the data governance ecosystem, and highlight the need to address intersectional issues, such as gender, environmental concerns, and the implications of AI. The tool sheds some light on the different types of data governance issues and organizations working on this complex field across sectors and geographies.

The Datasphere Initiative is calling for partners to evolve the Datasphere Observatory further and identify other organizations working on data. The Datasphere Governance Atlas 2025 shares highlights from the data collected in this Observatory including selected case studies and examples of some of the organizations identified.



[9] Datasphere Initiative (2022). The Datasphere Governance Atlas 2022, Datasphere Initiative.

Navigating a new Datasphere

When one looks across history one finds times of upheaval, tension and great transformation. For some parts of the world this is periodic, for others it feels constant. What's undeniable today is the role and impact of technological innovation. On some days it's inspiring, on others it makes even the most "stable" societies feel out of control.

While staggering amounts of people and entire communities are still unconnected[10] anyone with a signal connected to a phone is producing and contributing to our Datasphere.[11] Coined at the inception of the Datasphere Initiative three years ago in 2022[12] the concept of the Datasphere refers to the complex relationship between data, human groups and norms. The publication *Hello Datasphere* postulated that the "Datasphere" includes: a large number of interconnected agents, non-linear impacts of their actions, positive and negative feedback loops, unintended consequences, structural unpredictability, emergence and path dependencies.[13] This movement continues to transform our economies and societies.

Much has changed since 2022, but the fact that data governance matters *has not*. AI is transforming the dynamics of the Datasphere in ways we cannot anticipate. Not only human activity is producing data, but AI models and the rise of AI agents are producing vast amounts, including synthetic data.[14] Companies and other actors are using data from social media platforms and online content to develop their AI models and AI decision-making tools are being implemented across sectors.[15] The results and impact that AI generated data will have on our data ecosystems and future is slowly emerging with many questions around legality, copyright,[16] bias[17] and security,[18] to name a few.

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[10] ITU,(2024), Individuals using the internet, International Telecommunications Union Statistics.

[11] Datasphere Initiative (2022). Hello Datasphere — Towards a systems approach to data governance, Datasphere Initiative.

[12] Datasphere Initiative (2022). What you need to know about the Datasphere Initiative, Datasphere Initiative.

[13] Datasphere Initiative (2022). Hello Datasphere — Towards a systems approach to data governance, Datasphere Initiative.

[14] Surovtseva,A (2024), How synthetic data generation using generative AI helps create better, more efficient models, ITrexgroup blog.

[15] WEF (2023), Artificial intelligence will transform decision-making. Here's how, World Economic Forum Article.

[16] European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (2024), Artificial intelligence and copyright: use of generative AI tools to develop new content, European Commission.

[17] MIT (2023),When AI Gets It Wrong: Addressing AI Hallucinations and Bias, AI Resources Hub.

[18] Matlali,L (2023), Cybersecurity and AI: The challenges and opportunities, World Economic Forum.

In 2021, the report *We Need to Talk About Data*[19] outlined our collective difficulty to deal with the challenges raised by the massive amounts of data that now underpin almost all human activities across geographies. It sought to unpack two polarizing expressions: "Free Flow of Data" advocated, by many as a critical enabler of digital transformation, innovation, economic growth and social benefit and "Data Sovereignty" a term encompassing various concerns related to privacy, taxation, competition, security, and even the democratic process.[20] In the report De La Chapelle and Porciuncula warned that their coupling too often generated visceral reactions and intense exchanges devoid of nuance.[21] In the current geopolitical context, the fragmentation and polarisation identified in this report is arguably only increasing, and heated debates about the impacts of digitalization are feeding and being fed by growing geopolitical tensions.

As the tectonic plates of international cooperation and the "world order" as we know it evolves, what's front and centre for many is AI. 2025 has seen France's AI Action Summit take a different approach to the previous UK and South Korea efforts.[22] Africa's first AI Summit took centre stage in early 2025,[23] following the landmark Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy adopted by the African Union in 2024.[24] The release of new Gen AI technologies such China's DeepSeek[25] also highlighted that the AI race is changing but most definitely on.[26] This race intensifies the competition but also risks eroding trust among global actors, especially as nations vie for dominance in shaping the future of AI.

Yet how we collect, process, and use data impacts AI tremendously. A key pillar of the European Union's 2025 AI continental plan includes increasing access to high-quality data.[27] The data we feed and train AI technologies with heavily determines the outcomes it can produce (both positive and negative). Lack of data and robust data infrastructure is one of the challenges of scaling AI itself and supporting AI precision and reliability.[28] How and where data is stored impacts the environmental footprint of AI. In the United States alone, data center electricity consumption is expected to rise from 4.4% of total electricity use in 2023 to 6.7-12% by 2028.[29] Data lies not only at the core of AI itself, but also within its governance, shaping how we will distribute the benefits and mitigate the social, economic and environmental risks.

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[19] De La Chapelle and Porciuncula (2021), We Need to Talk About Data, Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network.

[20] De La Chapelle and Porciuncula (2021), We Need to Talk About Data, Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network.

[21] De La Chapelle and Porciuncula (2021), We Need to Talk About Data, Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network.

[22] Kurjbalija,J (2025),The Paris AI Summit: A diplomatic failure or a strategic success?, Diplo Blog.

[23] WEF (2025), The Africa Declaration on Artificial Intelligence,Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution Declaration.

[24] AU (2024), Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy, African Union Documents.

[25] Wong, M (2025), China's DeepSeek Surprise, The Atlantic Articles.

[26] Satariano,A ,Mozure, P (2024), The Global Race to Control A.I., The New York Times Newsletter.

[27] Santini,G (2025) , European Commission adopts the AI Continent Action Plan to make Europe global leader in AI, European Commission Articles.

[28] Bassett,G (2024), Why AI Pilots Are Stuck — and What It Will Take to Move Beyond Experiments, Medium Blogs.

[29] Shehabi,A ,Smith,J,S ,Hubbard,A, Newkirk,A, Lei,N, Siddik,A,B ,Holecek,B, Koomey,J, Masanet,E, and Sartor,D (2024), 2024 United States Data Center Energy Usage Report , Berkeley Lab Publications.

However, many countries are lagging behind in harnessing data for public services, let alone for the development and governance of AI. Recognizing this gap, global forums like the G20 and BRICS are increasingly emphasizing the need for stronger data foundations. South Africa's 2025 G20 Presidency is building on India and Brazil's cycles highlighting the need for investment in data to support digital public infrastructure and inclusive AI.[30] India's 2023 presidency spotlighted Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a transformative model, advocating for open, interoperable, and secure digital systems to accelerate development and inclusion, particularly for large, diverse populations.[31] Brazil, during its G20 presidency, focused on ensuring that digital technologies contribute to inclusive transformation, with particular attention to AI governance, safeguarding digital rights, and fostering innovation.[32] South Africa is now reinforcing these global efforts by calling for stronger data foundations to unlock AI's potential across the African continent. In parallel, BRICS is emerging as a key forum for cooperation on data and AI, where member countries are fostering joint initiatives to reduce inequalities, boost innovation, and promote sustainable development.[33] BRICS countries are exploring models for digital sovereignty that prioritize social inclusion while navigating the challenges of AI's rapid evolution.[34] Together, these fora are shaping a narrative where data is not just a technical asset, but a strategic enabler of more equitable, people-centered digital futures.

With data governance increasingly related to many aspects of development, global collaboration efforts are seeking to bring together actors across sectors towards a commitment to responsible data governance. Initiatives include the UN's Global Digital Compact (GDC)[35] and United Nations' World Data Forum's Commit to Data campaign,[36] the proposed G20 Data20 working group[37], and calls for an International Decade on Data for People and the Planet.[38]

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[30] Sridharan,S., Narayan,V and Hardinges,J (2024) Digital Public Infrastructure: Orientation Matters, Centre for International Governance and Innovation Articles.

[31] PIB Delhi (2024) Report of India's G20 Task Force on Digital Public Infrastructure released, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Finance Reports.

[32] Santos,B and Roncaratti,L (2024), Brazil's Role in Shaping the Digital Transformation, Wilson Center Part of the G20 Dialogues.

[33] Blanchet,A (2025) , Artificial Intelligence Governance in BRICS: Cooperation and Development for Social Inclusion, Brics Brazil Articles.

[34] Blanchet,A (2025) , Artificial Intelligence Governance in BRICS: Cooperation and Development for Social Inclusion, Brics Brazil Articles.

[35] Office of Digital and Emerging Technologies (2024) Global Digital Compact, United Nations, (accessed 2025).

[36] UN World Data Forum (n.d), Commit to data and transform action into impact, United Nations, (accessed 2025).

[37] Diepeveen,S and Kapoor, A (2024), Why we need global coordination on data, not just AI ,Global Government Forum Articles.

[38] DD (n.d) Decade on Data Homepage,(Accessed 2025).

The Global Digital Compact, adopted by the United Nations in 2024, sets out a framework for global governance of digital technology and AI, specifying the need to advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance. Objective 4 of the GDC calls to advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches. The document recognizes data as a critical enabler of development and cross-border data flows as a key driver of the digital economy. The final text highlights the need for appropriate data governance safeguards such as privacy and security and includes support for interoperability between national, regional and international data policy frameworks. The document calls on the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to establish a dedicated working group to engage "in a comprehensive and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue on data governance at all levels as relevant for development". The group's first meeting took place on May 1st 2025 in Geneva.[39]

While these efforts are important, many of these groups only scratch the surface of actors with insights and perspectives on data and its governance.[40] More understanding and representation is needed of the different types of organizations shaping and supporting how data is used and governed. To collaborate more effectively in this evolving landscape, we need a deeper comprehension of the ecosystem—how it is being shaped, where it is heading, and how actors can come together to drive more inclusive, equitable, and transparent data governance solutions.

[39] UNCTAD (n.d), Working group on data governance at all levels, Note on membership UNCTAD (accessed 2025).

[40] UNCTAD (2025), First meeting of the UN CSTD multi-stakeholder working group on data governance at all levels, United Nations Trade and Development Meetings.

Mapping the data governance ecosystem

As data permeates increasing aspects of our lives, understanding its governance becomes increasingly complex. This complexity is not only about the rules governing data's use but also about the global, cross-sectoral relationships that shape how data is shared, protected, and leveraged for innovation. Equally important is understanding who the non-governmental, not-for-profit stakeholders and funders are and how they interact, partner, support and compete with each other. Mapping their work provides insights into key trends and an overview of the frameworks, expertise and initiatives involved in the growing field of data governance.

The Datasphere Observatory aims to support the community of individuals and organizations working to make sense of the diverse and vast data policy and practice landscape. By compiling this ecosystem into a comprehensive map, the Observatory enables a clearer understanding of the different actors shaping data governance, helping stakeholders identify potential collaborators, gaps in the field, and opportunities for cross-sector partnerships. Building on the Datasphere Governance Atlas released in 2022,[41] it provides a starting point for organizations attempting to engage and understand the breadth and depth of organizations working on data governance.

The long-term goal is to serve the wider community by facilitating connections that help people convene, collaborate and promote responsible data-sharing narratives and encourage innovative practices across typically siloed communities and sectors. By expanding the boundaries of collaboration, the Observatory fosters the integration of diverse perspectives, helping to ensure that data governance evolves in an inclusive, responsible, and sustainable way.

The section below provides an overview of the different themes covered in the Observatory with illustrative examples of the organizations featured.

Datasphere Observatory

Online access here

Major categories:

1. People and Communities
2. Planet and Sustainability
3. Norms and Trust
4. Economy and Development
5. Infrastructure and Technology

[41] Datasphere Initiative (2022). The Datasphere Governance Atlas 2022, Datasphere Initiative.

1

People and communities

Putting people and participation at the center of data governance unlocks broad and lasting impact

At its core, data governance is about shaping how data affects people's lives, from mental health to access to education and health, digital inclusion, housing, and employment. This category highlights organizations around the world that are prioritizing efforts around equity, empowerment, and agency, enabling individuals and communities to not only benefit from data but to shape the systems that govern it. By advancing capacity building and participatory approaches that include underrepresented communities such as indigenous communities, refugees, children and youth, these initiatives bridge the gap between abstract policy and everyday realities. Whether through advocacy, digital skills, or mechanisms to realize collective rights, such as civic data stewardship and charters for data communities, actors in this space work to ensure data governance is more inclusive and representative.

Highlight 1. Digital Democracy and their work with frontline communities

Digital Democracy is committed to empowering Indigenous and frontline communities by using participatory data tools to support their environmental and human rights advocacy. Through tools like Mapeo, which enables communities to map and own their own data offline, and Terrastories, which helps them share stories tied to land, Digital Democracy ensures that communities on the frontlines have control over the data that impacts them. By prioritizing the voices of Earth defenders and Indigenous peoples, Digital Democracy enables these communities to not only protect their critical ecosystems but also to shape the data governance systems that affect their lives. Through capacity building and collaborative tool development, Digital Democracy exemplifies how data can be used as a vehicle for empowerment and social justice.

Read more about Digital Democracy's work here.

Examples of initiatives putting people and participation at the center of data governance

- Digital Democracy – uses participatory data tools for indigenous and frontline communities.
- Open North – community data stewardship in municipal and urban governance.
- OurData.coop – collective data ownership model for small business communities.
- Caribbean Open Institute – open data for local development through citizen participation.
- Connected by Data – campaigns for collective data rights in UK public policy.

Tags: *advocacy, capacity building, children and youth, culture, humanities, and arts, data cooperatives, data science, data sovereignty, digital divide, digital inclusion, digital resilience, education and skills, employment, entertainment, gender, indigenous rights, health, housing, media and journalism, mental health, migration and refugees, race, science and technology, underrepresented communities*

2

Planet and Sustainability

The governance of environmental data is key to unlocking effective local and planetary-scale solutions

The effective governance of environmental data is a critical issue in today's sustainability landscape. Data is crucial for informed decision-making and policy formulation and key for the technological innovation needed to catalyze rapid transformation towards greener economies. Climate change is global and cannot be addressed in any one country, leading to challenges with data sharing, data quality, access, interoperability, and taxonomy harmonization.

This category points to organizations generating or using data for sustainability issues related to the environment and ensuring that the value of data is unlocked for the future and benefit of the planet.

Highlight 2. Global Forest Watch and Global Fishing Watch leading global monitoring with data

Global Forest Watch (GFW) and Global Fishing Watch (GFW) are pioneering yet distinct initiatives leveraging data to enhance transparency, accountability, and sustainability in global environmental governance. Global Forest Watch provides open-access, near real-time data and monitoring tools that empower users—from local communities to policymakers—to track deforestation and forest degradation around the world. Similarly, Global Fishing Watch harnesses satellite data and advanced analytics to visualize and monitor fishing activity across the globe, promoting transparency in ocean governance and supporting efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. Both initiatives exemplify how open, accessible, and high-quality data can drive evidence-based action, support biodiversity, and ensure that environmental stewardship is informed, inclusive, and effective. By putting powerful data-driven monitoring tools in the hands of stakeholders at all levels, these platforms bridge the gap between data and decision-making for more sustainable forests and oceans.

Learn more about Global Forest Watch here.
Learn more about Global Fishing Watch here.

Examples of initiatives leveraging the power of data to enhance sustainability and protect the planet

CGIAR – advancing food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis with data.
InfoAmazonia – leveraging data to tell stories about the endangered Amazon region.
SeedLinked – repository and community platform of seed data and growing practices.
Earth Biogenome Project – sequencing, cataloging, and characterizing the genomes of Earth's eukaryotic biodiversity.
Global Forest Watch – enhancing data for forest and deforestation monitoring.

Tags: *aerospace, agriculture, air, cities, deforestation, energy, topics/environment, floods, food security, sustainability, sustainable development, transportation, water*

3

Norms and trust

Clear rules of behavior are crucial to ensure trustworthy data-enabled technologies

In an increasingly data-driven world, trust is not automatic, it must be built through clear, accountable, and rights-based governance frameworks. During the past three decades, the data governance ecosystem has experienced exponential growth regarding concepts and understandings, actors, supporting systems, and norms.[42] This category maps organizations, including governmental agencies, private enterprises, non-profit organizations, and data management organizations, that are helping shape the principles and guardrails guiding how data is collected, shared, and used. These actors work at the intersection of law, ethics, technology, and public interest, shaping everything from privacy regulations and open data standards to algorithmic accountability and consent frameworks. As data governance becomes central to how we govern societies, these organizations are contributing to crafting the foundational norms that protect rights, ensure fairness, and build legitimacy in digital ecosystems. This category brings together organizations that are working on values, norms, policies, and rights that will impact data governance frameworks at various levels, including innovative frameworks such as protocols or contracts.

Highlight 3. Aapti Institute and the need to embed fairness in the data economy

The Aapti Institute is a public research organization working at the intersection of technology and society to build more just, equitable, and rights-based digital ecosystems. Through grounded research and interdisciplinary analysis, Aapti explores how data and technology affect people's everyday lives and uses these insights to inform the development of governance frameworks that prioritize public interest. Its two core initiatives—the Data Economy Lab and the Digital Public Lab—generate knowledge and tools that contribute to emerging norms around consent, data sharing, privacy, and accountability. By bridging the gap between legal, ethical, and technological perspectives, Aapti helps craft governance mechanisms that reflect lived realities and protect fundamental rights in increasingly datafied societies.

Read more about Aapti's work here.

Examples of initiatives shaping the principles, norms and frameworks guiding how data is governed

5Rights Foundation – advocating for children's rights in the digital age.
Aapti Institute – explores governance protocols and community consent in data use.
Data Privacy Brasil – developing research and policy support on data protection and privacy.
Derechos Digitales – embedding human rights lens and frameworks in digital transformation.
MyData Global – promotes individual control and ethical use of personal data.

Tags: *anticorruption, competitiveness, consumer protection, data governance, data sharing agreements, data standards, digital rights, fairness, free speech, geopolitics, governance, government, human rights, internet governance, justice, open data, open government, open science, privacy, regulation, sandboxes, security and safety, transparency, trust*

[42] Rossini,C and Rozo-Paz,M (2023), Grasping the expanding world of data governance principles, Datasphere Initiative.

4

Economy and Development

Intentional data governance aimed at solving real-world challenges can drive equitable socioeconomic outcomes

Data governance can no longer be seen as a niche concern. It is now central to shaping the transformation of entire economic sectors, how inclusion is achieved, and how development goals are met. This category covers organizations that are using data to promote financial inclusion, reduce inequalities, drive entrepreneurship, and inform policy aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including global cooperation, poverty alleviation and gender equity. Their work demonstrates that when data is accessible, high-quality, and governed responsibly, it becomes a powerful enabler of resilient economic systems and more equitable societies.

Highlight 4. GEDA: Gender + Environment Data Alliance

GEDA (Gender and Environment Data Alliance) is an interesting intersectionality example of gender and environment. GEDA focuses on improving gender-just climate and environmental actions through strategic use and governance of gender-disaggregated data. Established under the Generation Equality Forum, GEDA aims to enhance the accessibility and application of robust gender data by compiling and reviewing existing data sources, amplifying disaggregated and intersectional data, and influencing data norms and analytical frameworks. Its work involves strengthening the capacity of traditional data institutions and promoting innovative, participatory data practices to drive gender-transformative policies. GEDA's commitment to open, transparent data collection and sharing, while protecting privacy, underscores its focus on effective data governance. By advancing systemic changes in data practices and frameworks, GEDA seeks to ensure that gender data is both inclusive and impactful, ultimately contributing to equitable and sustainable outcomes.

Read more about GEDA's gender and environment data work here.

Examples of initiatives using data to address development challenges and drive equitable socioeconomic outcomes

Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data for Development - cross-sector data collaboration and capacity-building to achieve the SDGs.
Data-Pop Alliance – data-driven development and inequality reduction.
GovLab's 100 Questions Initiative – data for public good, aligned with SDGs.
GEDA: Gender + Environment Data Alliance – gender-disaggregated data for climate justice.
Data2X – advancing gender data for economic and social development globally.
Africa Open Data Network – amplifies the impact of open data in Africa, powered by a network of actors.

Tags: *economic development, economic recovery, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, trade and manufacturing*

5

Infrastructure and Technology

Data governance shapes foundational infrastructures and data-intensive technologies such as AI and its impacts in our digital societies

From payments to digital identity systems, the way we design, manage, and govern our digital infrastructure profoundly influences societal outcomes. This category highlights organizations that work on the core building blocks of our digital world, including digital public infrastructure (DPI), data repositories, interoperable data spaces, and governance models like data stewardships and data trusts. As emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, extended reality, and homomorphic encryption continue to evolve, so too must the governance frameworks that ensure their responsible deployment. This category in the Observatory maps actors working on everything in the intersection between data governance and cybersecurity to privacy-enhancing technologies, and autonomous systems such as AI. Many of these organizations are advancing efforts to embed accountability, equity, and public value into some of these often invisible infrastructures (e.g., connectivity or open cloud infrastructures) and visible technologies (e.g., AI) that at times disrupt or enable digital government transformation, economic participation, and societal trust in technology.

Within this category, organizations that work on different types of data are mapped, as well as those working on aspects related to advancing the debate on data infrastructures, digital public infrastructures and data-intensive technologies.

Highlight 5. Co-Develop and the need to invest in DPI as a foundation for inclusive digital transformation

Co-Develop's approach to Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is deeply intertwined with data governance, highlighting its crucial role in the design and deployment of effective digital systems. They view DPI as essential digital capabilities that must be inclusive, foundational, interoperable, and publicly accountable. Co-Develop's funding strategy supports projects that align with these principles by emphasizing robust data governance frameworks.

Specifically, Co-Develop focuses on funding initiatives that provide technical assistance to governments on DPI design and policy, support proven digital public goods with open-source codebases, enhance local and ecosystem-wide capacities, and contribute to research on DPI impacts. This comprehensive support ensures that DPI systems are not only technically proficient but also governed in a way that prioritizes transparency, equity, and public accountability.

By funding projects that address these areas, Co-Develop ensures that data governance is a central component of DPI development, promoting systems that are not only effective and scalable but also uphold the highest standards of data protection and inclusivity. This approach reinforces the link between effective data management and the creation of digital infrastructures that serve public interests across diverse societal sectors.

Read more about Co-Develop and their approach here.

Examples of initiatives creating foundational infrastructures for effective value creation with data and digital technologies

Data Nutrition Project – improving AI quality through transparent data infrastructure.
Co-Develop – advancing DPI with governance principles, openness, and ecosystem-wide capacity building.
The Humanitarian Data Exchange – open platform sharing data across crises and organizations.
Zama – building Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE) solutions for blockchain and AI.

Tags: *artificial intelligence, autonomous weapons, blockchain, connectivity, cybersecurity, data public infrastructure, data repository, data solutions, data spaces, data stewardships, data trusts, digital id, digital public infrastructure, digital government transformation, emerging technologies, extended reality, homomorphic encryption, innovation, interoperability, open cloud, privacy enhancing technologies*

6

Funders

Governments play pivotal roles in technological innovation and scaling by setting agendas, channeling resources, and shaping policy directions. 2025 has already seen major AI and data infrastructure investments. Private sector actors, from established corporations to start-ups, are influencing the data ecosystem, particularly through AI-driven products and services. But the focus on government and private sector foresight and investments often overlooks a critical piece of the puzzle: the funders, philanthropies and foundations helping shape the values, norms, and systems underpinning this digital transformation.

At a moment of accelerated innovation, a number of philanthropies are also investing in new technologies and data policy agendas. Funders play a key role in deciding what gets funded, what questions are explored, and what solutions are scaled. In doing so, they help set the direction for where data governance is going, and what is considered important in building our digital future. This means their influence extends beyond financial support — it's about shaping the very frameworks and guardrails for responsible innovation. Understanding how these various stakeholders interact is essential for understanding how to navigate the evolving data policy environment, and help diverse entities to work together effectively.

Beyond influencing specific agendas, funders are also helping to shape the very contours of data governance as an emerging field. Their investments often go toward building infrastructure, supporting thought leadership, and fostering interdisciplinary communities that define and evolve the norms of responsible data use. In doing so, funders play a catalytic role in legitimizing new approaches, elevating underrepresented voices, and encouraging long-term ecosystem development. This kind of field-shaping support helps transform fragmented efforts into a more coherent and sustainable data governance landscape.

The Datasphere Observatory intends to help organizations identify allies and partners. It includes examples of funders supporting data capacity building, research, policy advocacy, infrastructure, products and services to name a few examples. Many of these funders operate at the intersection of technology and social impact, recognizing that digital transformation must be inclusive, equitable, and grounded in ethical principles. Many have broad remits, connecting data and technology to a myriad of societal challenges and issues from health to gender equality.

Highlight 6. The Responsible Technology Youth Power Fund: A Funders' Coalition

The Responsible Technology Youth Power Fund is a pioneering philanthropic initiative dedicated to empowering youth and intergenerationally led organizations that are advancing the responsible technology movement. Now in its second year, the Fund has successfully raised over $4.5 million to support 501(c)(3) eligible public charities with grants ranging from $25,000 to $150,000, tailored to the stage and needs of each organization. This innovative coalition of 12 funders spans various disciplines, all committed to fostering a more inclusive and equitable technology ecosystem. By focusing on youth and children's initiatives related to data, data governance, and responsible technology, the Fund aims to harness the transformative potential of young leaders in shaping a more ethical and accountable tech landscape. In 2023, the Fund supported 26 organizations, reinforcing its role in catalyzing impactful change within the technology sector. Funders involved include the Omidyar Network, Hopelab, Pivotal Ventures, Archwell Foundation, Pinterest, AK Foundation, and more.

Read more about the Responsible Technology Youth Power Fund here.

Examples of funders shaping the data governance ecosystem and a more equitable digital future

Gates Foundation – supporting evidence-based global health, development, and education initiatives
Botnar Foundation – championing youth well-being through innovative initiatives and equitable data governance initiatives
Luminate – advancing civic participation, dissent, and information integrity through data governance, policy advocacy, and digital rights protection
Omidyar Network – shaping an equitable digital future through investments in responsible technology, inclusive data governance, and civic empowerment
Patrick J McGovern Foundation – powering social impact through AI and data science
Skoll Foundation – driving civic engagement and democratic resilience through ethical data practices, inclusive digital governance, and support for social entrepreneurs
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation – promoting constructive dialogue and local, community-based solutions to build inclusive digital transformations

Philanthropic and other funders play a crucial role in building and supporting field-building. Their financial resources, coupled with a willingness to take risks and support innovative approaches, enable experimentation and long-term investment in addressing complex social issues. By providing independence from government and corporate interests, philanthropic organizations can catalyze change, strengthen capacity within civil society, and promote accountability and transparency. This support fosters the growth of fields and can drive systemic change and empower marginalized communities.

The interest of funders in data has grown in the past decade as exemplified by the large number of funders identified in the Datasphere Observatory, which includes 62 funders.

The past few years have also seen joint-funding efforts see the emergence of a handful of those, including, for instance, the Data Empowerment Fund that brought together Patrick J. McGovern Foundation, Omidyar Network and Open Collective Foundation. The Data Empowerment Fund received more than 800 applications for funding, from which eight initiatives were selected to receive funding. This demonstrates the growing need of resources in the expanding data governance field, and the limited funding available to support data-driven projects and participatory data governance innovations. The growing emphasis on collaborative funding approaches appear to aim to foster synergies among various stakeholders. Some consortia bring together multiple philanthropic organizations to pool resources for specific themes, such as responsible AI development or cross-border data governance mechanisms. These joint initiatives hold the potential to amplify impact, create shared standards for responsible data use, and build robust ecosystems that transcend individual projects or geographic boundaries.

2025 has also seen the announcement of funding collaborations to explore the relationship between responsible technology practices and financial performance. The role of investors in shaping capital to new companies and technologies that can address ethical risks and societal harms fed by the current environment is emerging as an area of philanthropic collaboration. For example, Ford Foundation and Omidyar Network announced their intentions to fund applied, publicly available research and/or programming that would substantively advance evidence that establishes the empirical relationship between responsible technology practices and financial performance.[43] Collaborative funding not only accelerates the development of effective data governance frameworks but also fosters cross-sector dialogue and action, increasing the likelihood of achieving long-term, sustainable impact.

Based on the examples identified in the Datasphere Observatory, philanthropic engagement in data governance is both multifaceted and still in flux. Many funders prioritize capacity building for local communities and civil society organizations, recognizing that effective data governance demands not only technical expertise but also strong local participation. Others concentrate on developing best practices for AI oversight, including algorithmic fairness, transparency, and accountability mechanisms. This variety of focal areas reflects the complexity of data governance itself, which spans technological, legal, and ethical dimensions.

[43] FF and ON (2025), Request for Proposals: Applied research on the relationship between responsible technology practices and financial performance, Ford Foundation and Omidyar Network Call for Proposals.

Philanthropy has emerged as a central force in data governance, filling a critical vacuum where traditional government and corporate funding often fall short. Funders are making substantial investments in responsible AI development and innovative data practices, driving local capacity building and supporting policy experimentation. They are also playing a pivotal role in ensuring the sustainability of existing projects and high-potential ventures supporting foundational digital transformation, like DPI. While more alignment and coordination could help ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and address the most pressing governance challenges. The contribution of philanthropy can help to bridge gaps in regions and sectors that face persistent challenges in managing data responsibly, ensuring that emerging data ecosystems are both ethical and equitable.

The Observatory in Numbers

In an effort to continue building the field of data governance and better understand how different organizations around the world are unlocking the value of data, the Datasphere Initiative developed the Observatory database of organizations that influence the data governance debate across sectors around the world. From September 2023 to December 2024, a total of 420 entities – 358 organizations and 62 funders – were mapped, including the entities nominated in the 2022 Datasphere Governance Atlas (Box 1). The database was expanded not only to include more organizations but also to map the funding landscape and relevant funders in the data governance field (organizations and funders are collectively referred to as "Entities"). The Observatory also goes further to build the Entities' profiles into an interactive dashboard that supports intelligence extracting, such as field trends and gaps.

Box 1. How the Observatory was developed

The questions driving the Observatory sought to enhance understanding of the growing field of data governance, the organizations and funders involved, the innovations they bring to unlock the value of data, and the potential gaps:

- **What other entities are working on data governance?**
- **What geographic regions do they cover?**
- **What are the topics these entities are working on?**
- **What are the most relevant funders in the data governance field?**
- **What trends, innovations and gaps in data governance can be identified?**

The entities' database development and analysis were conducted in two phases. First, a non-probabilistic sampling method was used to identify new organizations and funders tackling data governance in connection to data and digital technologies. Second, content analysis of the sample was used to identify the entities' activities and topics of focus in more detail as they relate to data governance and digital technologies. Only entities with online presence that strive to accomplish at least one of the following objectives in the data governance field were included in the sample:

1. **Focus on data governance at large;**

2. **Provide data repositories;**

3. **Connect data governance topics with discussions and work around digital technologies and digital rights. And specifically:**
   - Enhance trust in data governance by advancing privacy, data security, and cybersecurity.
   - Improve socio-economic development through the use of data or by advocating for data production, access, and sharing in specific support of the SDGs or better policymaking.

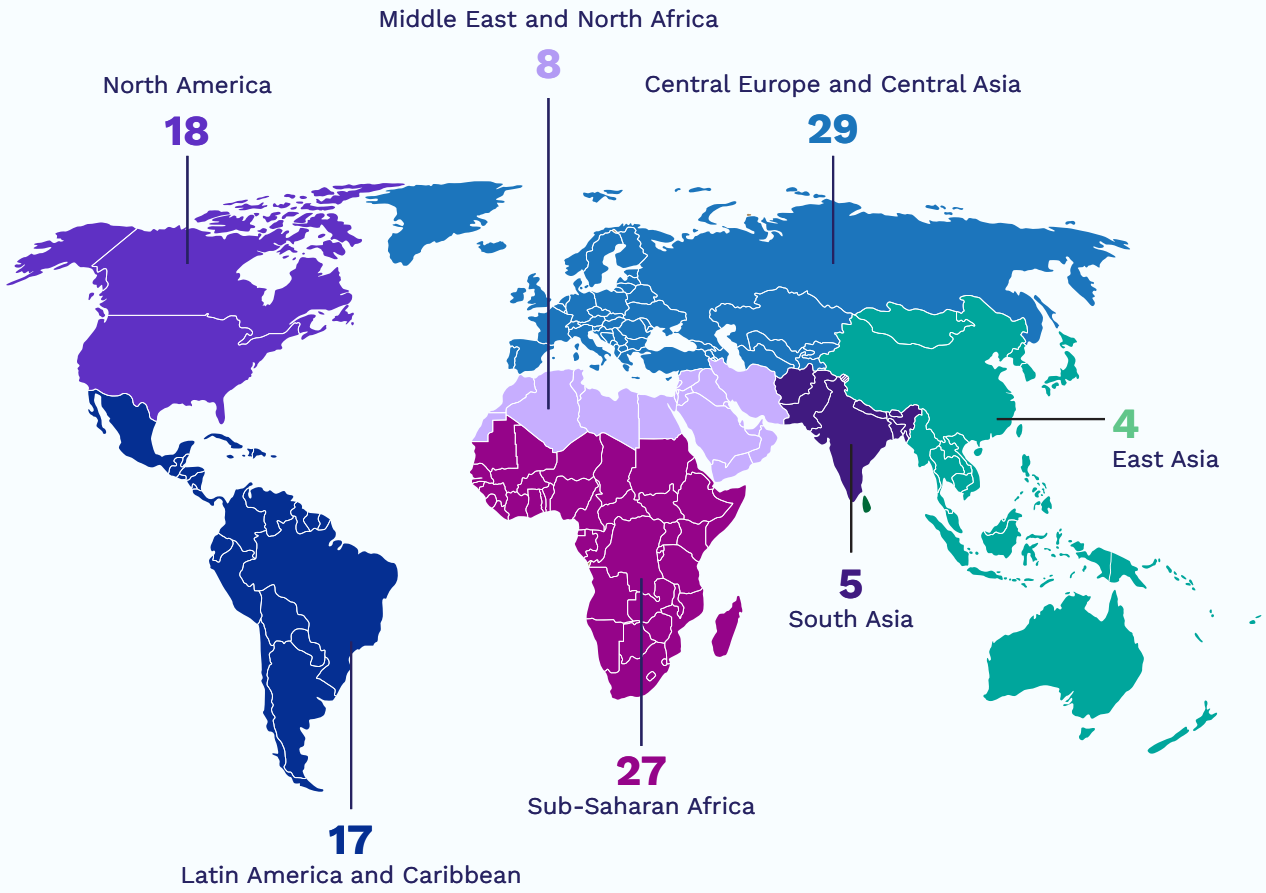
Qualitative analysis was conducted using public information of the 358 organizations and 62 funders sampled. Categorization and quantitative analysis were developed for three sub-groups: (1) an aggregate database of all Entities, including organizations and funders (420 "ENTITIES" in total); (2) the specific database (358 "ORGANIZATIONS"); and (3) the funders database (62 "FUNDERS"). More details on the categories and methodology, including limitations, can be found in Annexes 1 and 2.

This section of the 2025 Datasphere Atlas offers a snapshot of the statistics collected from the database of 420 profiled entities in the data governance space, providing insights into their types, geographic reach, and focus areas. However, this sample is limited, as it only includes entities with an online presence during data collection from 2023 to 2024 and reflects searches conducted in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. Consequently, it may not fully capture the global diversity of organizations in this rapidly evolving field.

Despite these constraints, the data offers valuable insights into the landscape of data governance. This section highlights key statistics on entity types, geographic scope, languages, and topics covered by the organizations and funders included in the Atlas. We hope to continue expanding this resource with the help of the community and encourage contributions to further refine and enhance our mapping efforts.

Key Statistics

Entities per regional scope



420
entities profiled

- **358** are organizations
- **62** are funders

Geographic Scope

50.71% Global Reach

61.43% Global South

27.14% National/Local

Entity Types

NGOs 44.1%
Coalitions/Alliances 16.4%
Funders: 14.7%
Research and Academic Institutions 12.6%
Private companies 9%
Government Institutions 3.3%

Languages used

Primarily **English**
followed by **Spanish** 9.2%
French 6.8%
Portuguese 3.8%
More than 24 languages represented

Top topics covered by organizations

Democracy & Governance 35.47%
Government 32.68%
Education & Skills 26.54%
Health 22.91%
Environment 21.51%
AI 19.83%

Data Infrastructure Innovation

37.6% provide **data repositories**
20.6% provide **data solutions**
New models
data commons 8.8%
data trusts 3.5%
data stewards 2.4%

Top topics covered by funders

Democracy & Governance 64.52%
Environment 58.06%
Education & Skills 53.23%
Gender 45.16%
Underrepresented Communities 40.32%

Takeaways from mapping the ecosystem

1 The data governance field is rapidly expanding, but remains fragmented and deeply underfunded

The data governance field is rapidly growing, with a surge of new actors, initiatives, and coalitions entering and shaping the space. Despite a boom in actors and initiatives, the field remains disjointed and underfunded, with only a small percentage of efforts being funded. Most organizations work in silos, with limited coordination across geographies or thematic areas, which hinders their ability to raise funds and ensure long-term sustainability. The rapid changes seen in the funding ecosystem[44] have also led to underfunded initiatives, and have opened the question on how to ensure sustainability without dependency on external funding.

Why it matters

As technology evolves and the need for better quality data and overall data governance grows, there is enormous demand and innovation happening. From private sector companies and startups creating data-based solutions to governments navigating pressing challenges and civil society and third sector actors contributing to responsible and effective value creation, resources don't match the urgency or scale of challenges. Without better alignment, duplication of efforts, missed opportunities, and funding inefficiencies will continue.

Strategic takeaway

New funding coalitions, transparent funding intelligence, and strategic alignment between funders and implementers are needed to scale impact. Global solutions grounded on deep community and local action are the foundation for effective impact. Funding initiatives that empower communities can promote local agency and solutions that scale. There is an urgent need for intentional field-building infrastructure for the data governance ecosystem that not only connects the dots but also ensures more equitable power distribution over who gets to shape the field, and for what purposes. More than new projects, we need shared frameworks and coordination mechanisms that support plural, inclusive, and accountable field development.

[44] Powell and Melamed (2025). The Data Crisis Following USAID's Withdrawal: Opportunities to Reimagine Data Systems, Development Gateway an IREX Venture blogs.

2 Civil society and coalitions are a force to be reckoned with

Civil society plays a crucial role in ensuring that data governance is inclusive, transparent, and accountable to the public interest. By engaging in various activities, from thought research, capacity building, advocacy to key community enablers and coalition-builders, civil society is driving and shaping data governance. NGOs make up 44.1% of all mapped entities. Coalitions (16.4%) and funders (14.7%) are also shaping agendas, particularly on intersectional issues like AI, gender, and climate.

Why it matters

The growing presence of NGOs and coalitions shows that the field is bottom-up and values-driven. These organizations play a key role in informing global and national data policy with community insights and in promoting collaborative and participatory decision-making processes. However, they risk being under-resourced and politically peripheral.

Strategic takeaway

Investing in civil society and coalition-building is essential to maintain the pluralism, experimentation, and rights-based orientation of the field. Equipping civil society with tools to engage in global data governance is also fundamental to ensure that community perspectives can be incorporated into decision making, and data governance remains legitimate and effective.

3 The Global South is not just a beneficiary, but a shaper

Over 60% of entities mapped focus on the Global South, which highlights the existing organizations working for and in these countries. And while international development organizations have traditionally been based in the Global North and seeking to impact the Global South, the growing trend points to more organizations led by people from these countries and impacting their communities. Most topic areas, from health and education to AI and environment, are anchored in these contexts.

Why it matters

This flips the traditional narrative: the Global South is not a passive recipient but a co-creator of data governance models. Organizations across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and countries in Asia are more often engaging in high-level conversations on data governance, and flipping from being standard-takers to standard-makers.

Strategic takeaway

Data governance must reflect diverse epistemologies and power structures. It is fundamental to open spaces for these organizations to share their experiences and views, as well as craft their own approaches to ensure data value creation in their contexts. The future of global frameworks will be shaped by and in the South.

4 Youth and children are builders of the data future

Young people are deeply affected by data-driven decisions across sectors; yet their voices are often missing from data governance conversations and policymaking spaces. 14% of the entities mapped in the data governance field are focusing their work on coalition-building, youth-led innovation, and children's rights in the digital age.

Why it matters

Young generations bring digital fluency, lived experiences, and frontline perspectives to urgent challenges. Without youth leadership and involvement, solutions risk being disconnected from the realities they are meant to address, and ineffective in addressing the pressing challenges of the next generation.

Strategic takeaway

Investing in youth-led initiatives, co-creation processes, and intergenerational governance is essential to ensure that future data systems are shaped to be equitable, responsive, and inclusive.

5 Infrastructure is central to governance

With the increasing availability of data and the need to make it accessible for value creation, data infrastructures are rising. 29.3% of entities work on data aggregation; 37.6% provide repositories. At the same time, emerging infrastructures provide collective access to data and enable value sharing across communities. The growing presence of data commons, spaces, stewards, and trusts signals a shift from control to co-governance.

Why it matters

Governance is no longer only about laws and rights; it's about the design of technologies, systems and shared infrastructure. The rise of DPI as the foundation for digital transformation has also highlighted that it is not just a matter of technology, but rather of infrastructures for collaboration.

Strategic takeaway

Governance approaches must account for both technical architectures and institutional models (like data cooperatives or DPI).

6 AI, health, and climate are governance test beds

Data has sparked solutions to pressing issues in the 21st century, ranging from AI applications to enhance competitiveness to data-driven solutions for more effective health delivery or climate change adaptation. It is not a surprise, then, that AI (19.8%), environment (21.5%), and health (22.9%) are leading cross-cutting themes among the mapped entities in the growing Datasphere. Each one of these topics requires new data governance solutions — not just in terms of norms, but also in terms of experimentation of tools, institutions and shared infrastructures (e.g., sandboxes, DPI, open science).

Why it matters

Data support in addressing key developmental challenges and getting its governance right is the key to finding innovative solutions to complex issues. These sectors are where abstract data governance debates become tangible and urgent. Effective data governance ensures that AI, health and climate innovations are possible.

Strategic takeaway

We must accelerate adaptive governance models, such as spaces to prototype, test, and iterate policy in complex, evolving domains. The goal is to use data to address these challenges and steer innovation toward equity, accountability, and public good outcomes.

7 Data is at the same time a sustainability tool and environmental liability

With the urgency of the climate crisis, it is no surprise that there are a growing number of initiatives working to leverage data to address environmental needs. 21.5% of organizations mapped in the Observatory are working on data and the environment. Efforts vary from water management, tracking drought, and extreme weather, measuring pollution levels, or using data to increase transparency and monitor compliance with environmental laws and commitments.

Why it matters

Global data centre electricity consumption could double to over 1,000 TWh by 2026—equivalent to Japan's annual electricity use—according to the International Energy Agency.[45] While the absence of data and data sharing has been identified as a "major roadblock" to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.[46] All stakeholders must acknowledge the true environmental costs of AI and our use of data. Efforts to rebalance these risks and address the environmental impact of the datasphere is becoming urgent.

Strategic takeaway

Environmental costs and impacts should be an agenda not only on the fringe of technological and digital transformation meetings but a cornerstone of data policy debate and AI development and deployments. Each one of the sectors covered in the Observatory has an environmental nexus and more efforts are needed to address the environmental costs of data-driven economies.

[45] International Energy Agency (2024). Electricity 2024: Analysis and forecast to 2026, International Energy Agency.

[46] The Rockefeller Foundation and BCG (2022). What gets measured gets financed, The Rockefeller Foundation.

8 Diversity and inclusion matters more than ever

23.1% of organizations mapped in the Observatory focus on gender, intersectionality, or inclusion as a core part of their work. These initiatives range from tackling gender bias in data collection to developing inclusive AI systems and promoting the rights of marginalized communities in digital spaces. Rather than being peripheral, these efforts continue to be key to advancing justice, reducing harm, and ensuring that the value of data reaches those historically left out.

Why it matters

Lack of inclusion and diversity in data governance and technological development and policy is not just about optics. Lack of representation has real and concrete impacts on tech uptake and local impacts. In the case of AI and healthcare, studies have shown that AI predictive models that used blood tests to identify liver disease were found to be twice as likely to miss disease in women as in men.[47] As more of these examples unfold, there is a risk in AI products, services and other data intensive technologies and tools, being dismissed as unfit for population wide tools.

Strategic takeaway

The full range and spectrum of people should be represented at the different levels of data governance to address societal challenges and ultimately deliver on technologies potential for development. Taking a lens of intersectionality to the AI landscape uncovers deeper divides and exclusion of women and girls.[48] Data governance should center on collective decisions and community input at every stage of policy formation. New avenues to support participatory data governance should be identified to empower marginalized voices in the data economy.

9 New data governance technical and policy tools need support to scale

Out of the organizations mapped, 20.6% provide **data solutions**, and others showcase **new data governance models** like data commons (8.8%), data trusts (3.5%), or data stewards (2.4%). These different types of data sharing and management tools and functions contribute to collectively sharing the value of data and ensuring its responsible governance across its data lifecycle.

Why it matters

As countries grapple with the fast-evolving nature of AI there is an increasing acknowledgment of a need to innovate with new regulatory and technical tools. To tackle today's challenges, we need governance mechanisms that are more adaptive, inclusive, and iterative.

Strategic takeaway

Innovative tools such as sandboxes offer fresh ways to test ideas, iterate quickly, and build trust.[49] At the tech level, this includes development and scaling of open data tools and repositories, as well as applications that allow for advanced participatory mechanisms, consent management and responsible data sharing without compromising privacy such as privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs) could help bridge the gap between theory to action at the data governance space.

[47] Nleya,M.J. (2024), Women and AI: Overcoming Potential Bias and Optimizing the Best of Both Worlds, Harvard Kennedy School Student Policy Review.

[48] Ebassa, A. G. (2024). Intersectionality in digital content creation: Understanding its impact on women's content creators in Cameroon, Pollicy Reports.

[49] Datasphere Initiative (2025). Sandboxes for AI: Tools for a new frontier, Datasphere Initiative.

10 Organizations and actors working on data governance need more spaces to share and coordinate

The Datasphere Observatory's mapping exercise focuses primarily on civil society organizations. It represents only a partial view of the broader data governance ecosystem. A wide range of intergovernmental bodies, private sector initiatives, academic institutions, and local communities are also playing influential roles in shaping data governance frameworks globally.

As the field grows, there is a pressing need for more inclusive spaces for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and strategic coordination across sectors and regions. Without better mechanisms for collaboration, efforts risk remaining fragmented, missing opportunities for alignment, learning, and collective impact.

Why it matters

In order to collectively manage the guardrails of this evolution we need to have more spaces to exchange learnings and collaborate across sectors, geographies, and disciplines. We are collectively going to be affected if the Datasphere is misgoverned because as the number of actors grows, so does the complexity of interactions and influence. Without mechanisms for coordination, asymmetries in power and access may deepen. Not only will this shift the balance between data holders and affected communities, but it will also change the nature of data itself. AI, in particular, is expected to produce an enormous and continuous stream of synthetic and derivative data. If left unchecked, this risks overwhelming existing frameworks and reinforcing existing biases and exclusions.

Strategic takeaway

Although efforts like the D20,[50] UN Global Digital Compact,[51] and the UN World Data Forum's Commit to Data campaign[52] are valuable, there is a need to harmonize and coordinate these initiatives. By integrating various global efforts and ensuring interoperability, we can create a more unified approach to data governance. This includes establishing shared principles, common vocabularies, and inclusive participation pathways to ensure that diverse perspectives — especially from the Global South and underrepresented communities — are meaningfully included in shaping the future of the datasphere. Establishing an International Decade on Data for People and Planet could provide a mission-driven process and vision for international data cooperation that can stimulate international investment, bridge capacity gaps, leverage specialist expertise in the private sector, and reduce barriers to data sharing.[53]

[50] Diepeveen,S and Kapoor, A (2024), Why we need global coordination on data, not just AI ,Global Government Forum Articles

[51] Office of the Secretary General (2024) Global Digital Compact (accessed 2025).

[52] UN World Data Forum (n.d),Commit to data and transform action into impact, (accessed 2025).

[53] Porciuncula,L (2023), Why We Need an International Decade for Data,United Nations University.

Conclusion

A call for new voices, new tools and a hopeful mindset

In 2025 polarization, international tensions and the legal arms race[54] have arguably become worse and not better, with continued calls for data sovereignty a symptom of a much larger and complex evolution of geopolitics. We are confronted with a civilizational challenge: organizing the coexistence and interactions of billions of people and entities, with vastly different interests, connected through the Internet and a global Datasphere. The scope and depth of the current challenges demonstrate the limits of the existing frameworks. Significant innovation is therefore much needed, regarding both the tools and the institutional mechanisms we rely on.

But if humans' relationship to data and technology is prisoner to the larger international order where do we go from here? How will data governance be impacted by tense debate and retreat from a rules-based order? Can we identify any possibility or hope in realizing digital technologies' potential to raise living standards, drive global health, address the climate crisis and ultimately bring humans together rather than further apart?

Moving forward, all actors need to recognize and engage in creative action that is more inclusive, evidence-based and focused on our shared humanity like never before. This requires centering justice, equity, and the redistribution of power in digital spaces, ensuring that communities most impacted by data-driven systems have the ability and agency to shape them.

It means investing in capacity building for youth, civil society, and local governments, and nurturing bottom-up approaches that surface local knowledge and foster community resilience. We must amplify diverse leadership and lived experience, and move beyond extractive models of innovation toward participatory ones that build trust, inclusion, and accountability into every layer of governance.

[54] De La Chapelle, B. and P. Fehlinger (2016), Jurisdiction on the Internet: From legal arms race to transnational cooperation, Observer Research Foundation.

As the data governance field grows and expands, with diverse actors shaping new norms, institutions, and infrastructures across contexts, deliberate field-building efforts are needed to ensure that value is more equitably distributed. As we build the field, we must remember that we have the ability to influence the future of data governance, and share its benefits across communities, sectors, and regions.

The call for an International Decade for Data (formulated as one of the recommendations in the report of the High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism, A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future[55]) should be seen as a resounding call to action for global leaders to set a transformative agenda; an agenda that acknowledges the interconnected nature of data's potential and underscores the collective responsibility to wield it conscientiously. The Decade could serve as a bridge that connects the dots between data's intrinsic value and AI's transformative power, fostering an ecosystem where both thrive in harmony.[56]

The path ahead is unwritten and that is our greatest strength. The future of digital governance will not emerge from fear or rigidity, but from bold, collective imagination. Hope, in this context, is not naive: it is a deliberate stance, a form of resistance against resignation. It is the belief that, even in the face of complexity and conflict, better is possible.

Instead of shying away from the unknown, we must lean into it, with curiosity, courage, and a commitment to co-creating better systems. This means embracing experimentation, not as a luxury, but as a necessity; valuing diverse perspectives, not as a checkbox, but as a core design principle; and focusing on long-term transformation over short-term fixes.

It's a mindset shift: from managing risk to unlocking potential; from exclusion to shared agency; from compliance to creativity. It requires us to believe in the possibility of change, and to work toward it together. Hope gives us permission to imagine otherwise. And in a world shaped by data and AI, that imagination is not optional: it's our most powerful tool.

[55] United Nations High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism (HLAB), (2023) A Breakthrough for People and Planet: Effective and Inclusive Global Governance for Today and the Future, New York: United Nations University.

[56] Porciuncula,L (2023), Why We Need an International Decade for Data,United Nations University.

Annexes

Annex 1 - 2025 Atlas and Observatory Methodology

Overview: the 2025 Atlas and the Datasphere Observatory

The Datasphere Initiative's 2025 Atlas builds on and expands the 2022 Datasphere Governance Atlas. It maps and profiles a broader and more diverse set of entities working on data governance and the intersection of data and digital technologies. In 2022, the Datasphere Initiative produced an interactive dashboard that helped identify trends, gaps, and opportunities for collaboration.

All data collected for both the 2022 and 2025 Atlases is now housed within the Datasphere Observatory, a broader, public-facing platform that includes not only the profiled entities from both Atlases (420 entities), but also additional organizations identified through the mapping process (for a total of 778 organizations). While the Atlas includes only those entities that were analyzed and profiled in depth, the Observatory hosts the full dataset, supporting a more comprehensive understanding of the field and enabling ongoing knowledge generation, community connection, and field development.

The ultimate goal is to facilitate access to collective intelligence and support community coordination, including with and among funders, towards better and more inclusive strategic engagement, policy action, and technology development for the digital society.

Scope and growth: 2022 to 2025

The 2022 Atlas developed a database of 261 organizations that influence the data governance debate across sectors around the world. It focused on shedding light on the Datasphere conceptual element of "individuals and human groups," defined as those who generate, collect, store, process, exchange, make accessible or access, analyze, and use data for various purposes. These actors also develop norms, processes, and infrastructures to support the actions and relations of the Datasphere. Distributed across the world, all these actors are interlinked in complex value chains and partnerships of various kinds.

For this version of the 2025 Atlas, the mapping of entities was expanded in size and scope to not only new organizations working on data governance but also organizations working at the intersection between data and digital technologies and funders that support or are in any way involved in or shaping the space.

The 2025 Atlas database is composed of 420 entities ("Entities" comprise organizations and funders), of which 358 are organizations among non-profits, think tanks, and more and 62 are funders working on data governance and digital technologies. The database development and analysis were conducted in the following core phases.

In the first phase, a non-probability sampling method was used to identify new entities that have some aspect of data governance as a supporting element to its mission and activities or a connection between data and digital technologies. This exercise included mapping of funders, which were identified thanks to a spoke-hub[57] approach by reviewing the organizations' funders. In the second phase, content analysis of the sample was used to identify in more detail the organizations' and funders' activities and topics of focus as they relate to data governance and digital technologies. This second phase allowed for new initiatives to be identified in a cascading mechanism, based on the initiatives' collaborations or partnerships. Those entities were then included, analyzed and categorized.

Phase I: Non-Probability Sampling to Identify Entities

During the period from September to December 2023, a total of 358 organizations and 62 funders were identified. Inclusion in the sample was based on whether these entities, through their online presence, showed a commitment to achieving at least one of the following objectives:

1. Focus on data governance at large by documenting, researching, or experimenting with emerging data governance models, practices, norms, and experiences. For instance, entities that deal with various aspects of data governance, including data licensing, data sharing, and new stewardship models.

2. Provide data repositories by offering an online location where aggregated public-interest data is kept and maintained in an organized way, and specific levels of access are granted to different stakeholders.

3. Connect data governance topics with discussions and work around digital technologies and digital rights. And specifically:
   a. Enhance trust in data governance by advancing privacy, data security, and cybersecurity.
   b. Improve socio-economic development through the use of data or by advocating for data production, access, and sharing in specific support of the SDGs or better policymaking.

Based on this core methodological cut, the following steps were applied in this phase:

1. The 220 organizations from the 2022 Atlas were reviewed and updated. Note that, while the Atlas mapped 261 organizations, 41 of those were international multilateral organizations, and for the 2025 Atlas the choice was to, for now, exclude those and focus on expanding the database by adding funders.

2. Based on two search methodologies - one by reviewing the 220 organizations' communities, partners, and funders, and another by reaching out to our network, we identified new entities.

[57] The spoke-hub approach is a methodology used in various fields, and involves a central "hub" that connects to multiple "spokes" which represent organizations or sub-topics. More information: Visible Network Labs. (2023, June 5). What is a hub-and-spoke network? Visible Network Labs. https://visiblenetworklabs.com/2023/06/05/what-is-a-hub-and-spoke-network/

3 We then reviewed the funders' grantees - when that information was available on the funders' websites - to check for those grantees working on data governance or issues at the intersection of data governance and digital technologies and the economy.

4 Through a series of key search words the team used Google search to identify other relevant entities working in the field.

5 The team then performed an in-depth review of each entity's mission to ensure that it accomplished at least one of the objectives mentioned above. Those that fulfilled at least one element were incorporated into the master database.

6 Finally, the team organized the entities into a spreadsheet, where a series of relevant categories were created - some similar and some different from the 2022 Atlas - to support building the entities' profiles, future content analysis and enable the core goals of the 2025 Atlas mentioned previously.

Phase II: Categorization via Content Analysis

Based on the final sample of entities, categories were developed to examine each of the selected entity's work in relation to data governance and digital technologies. Certain categories from the 2022 Atlas were retained for the 2025 Atlas while others were eliminated and new ones were introduced. This decision was driven by the commitment to cultivate an approach that is attuned to the factual dynamics within entities. Recognizing that organizations undergo substantial evolution over time, the team aimed to strike a balance between comprehensiveness and relevance to keep the 2025 Atlas as up-to-date and accurate as possible.

The categories include a description of the entity, its objective, its nature, its geographic scope, and the topics it covers at the time of the organization's review (see Annex 2 for a complete list and definitions of categories and sub-categories).

Geographic regions were based on the classification adopted by the World Bank. Some subcategories were mutually exclusive, such as the nature of the entity (i.e., an academic entity was coded as academic only), and others were overlapped, such as topics (i.e., one organization may focus on more than one topic, like gender and education, health and environment). Information was gathered from the entities' respective websites and entered into a master spreadsheet.

Whenever possible, categories were transformed into binary variables, such as "yes" or "no", to facilitate quantitative analysis. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected, allowing the team to both produce the initiatives' descriptions and statistics for each category.

Most of the theme categories used to examine organizations were used for the funders. Yet, the link to funders was provided for organizations, while grantees and funding programs for data or data governance projects were identified for funders.

Limitations

There are several limitations that may affect this version of the Datasphere Atlas and Observatory (version 2025). They include:

1. The sample is limited to only entities with an online presence and working websites during the period of data collection from September to December 2023.

2. There are various limitations associated with the initial sampling of entities since this is an expanding field and the concept of "data governance" in itself is an expanding one. However, we tried to be as encompassing as possible by using various relevant keywords, and doing the sampling in various languages.
   a. The entities were searched in four languages – French, English, Spanish, and Portuguese – which ultimately limited access to results in some areas of the world. Thus, the fact that a larger number of entities in some regions were not identified does not necessarily imply that no more entities are tackling data governance. It is possible that alternative key searches in local language terms will provide more results in other regions, especially in Asia.

3. Most subcategories were not mutually exclusive. Many entities are involved in more than one topic of research or work within the data governance domain, and the topics and tags applicable to each entity may vary in time, as they can start working in new areas or narrow their scope of work. The entity database was designed to help in mapping and supporting a better understanding of the current environment and provide a point of reference for future research.

4. The classification of the entities into categories is based on information provided by the entities themselves on their respective websites, such as what mission they seek and how their work proposes to impact specific populations. These assertions were not critically examined, nor were their success in achieving their mission investigated. In an effort to get things right, the Datasphere Initiative Observatory provides the opportunity for entities and their teams to suggest edits to their profiles.

5. Governmental Open Data Portals (ODP) were intentionally excluded from this database. These portals are the result of efforts related to access to information and government transparency. Lists of such portals may be accessed from other sources, including Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_open_government_data_sites, Data Portals at https://dataportals.org/search, Data Catalogs at http://datacatalogs.org/, and Open Data Inception at https://opendatainception.io/. The Open Knowledge Foundation, the Global Data Barometer hosted by the Data 4 Development Network, and the Open Government Partnership also track those efforts. However, a few data portals or aggregators that are impacting any aspect of data governance policy discussions were added to the entities database.

6. Private organizations that are providers of data management consultancy, infrastructure services, and governance tools were intentionally excluded. However, a few companies that - in addition to providing consultancy, infrastructures, or tools - also impact on any aspects of data governance policy discussions were added to the entities database.

Annex 2 - Definitions of Characteristics Used to Categorize Sample

Each entity's profile in the Observatory was built on a series of categories described below. Based on the final sample of entities, containing both funders and organizations, categories were developed to examine each of the selected entities' work in relation to data governance and digital technologies. As mentioned in Annex 1, certain categories were retained from the 2022 Atlas while others were eliminated and new ones were introduced. The categories below contributed to building each entity's profile within the Observatory, as well as to creating navigation tags that enable an exploration of the entities part of the Datasphere.

1. Description

Purpose: to gain insight into the entity's role within the ecosystem, its contributions to it, and its relationships with other entities, this information is then used to construct the entity's main profile on the Observatory platform.

In this category, the main question was: *What are the core characteristics of the entity?*

- Self-description: *Does the entity publish a standard description of who/what they are and what they do?*
- Mission: *What is the entity's purpose and overall intention?*
- Vision: *What is the ideal state that the entity wishes to achieve?*
- Relevant programs/projects: *What programs/projects of the entity are relevant to data or data governance?*
- List of funders/grantees: *What are the funders and supporters of this entity?* (Applicable to organizations); *What are the grantees and organizations supported by this funder?* (Applicable to funders)
- Partners: *What are the partners of this entity?*
- Data aggregator: *Is this entity a data aggregator or provider?*

2. Communication

Purpose: compile the relevant URLs and other communication outlets used by an entity to share its work. This information is used to build the entity's main profile in the Observatory platform.

In this category, the main question was: *What are the main communication outlets of the entity?*

- Website: *What is the link to the entity's main webpage? Is the website active?*
- Twitter: *What is the link to the entity's X (Twitter)? (if applicable)*
- Instagram: *What is the link to the entity's Instagram? (if applicable)*
- LinkedIn: *What is the link to the entity's LinkedIn? (if applicable)*
- YouTube: *What is the link to the entity's YouTube? (if applicable)*
- Contact: *Does the entity provide a form or an email for people to contact?*
- Careers link: *Does the entity have a dedicated link on their site with careers or job offers?*

3. Nature

Purpose: to understand the multistakeholder distribution. This information is used to create tags in the entities' profiles.

In this category, the main question was: *What is the legal nature of the organization?*

- Academic/research institution: *Is the entity affiliated with an academic or research institution? Is it a think tank?*
- Governmental institution: *Is the entity part of a government organ or initiative?*
- Private organization: *Is the entity a private organization?*
- Non-governmental organization: *Is the entity a non-profit organization?*
- Coalition/alliance: *Is the initiative formed by a group of organizations independently, regardless of whether the alliance is incorporated as a legal entity?*

4. Headquarters

Purpose: To capture the localization of entities. This information is used to create tags in the entities' profiles.

In this category, the main question was: *What is the city and country where the entity's headquarters are or, in the case of coalitions/alliances, where is the secretariat located if one exists?*

- Headquarters: Cities and countries were identified as headquarters based on entities' declarations on websites or, when available, their statutes, administrative information, financial information, and LinkedIn pages.

5. Geographic scope

Purpose: to capture the entity's defined or intended geographic scope for its work impact. This is an overlapping category; the organization may have a declared /intended impact in multiple regions. This information is used to create tags in the entities' profiles.

In this category, the main question was: *What is the geographic area that the entity intends to impact with its mission, programs, or outputs?*

- Global: *Is the entity's defined or intended geographic scope for its work impact global? Is its scope multi-regional, but the regions are not specifically defined?*
- Regional: *Is the entity's defined or intended geographic scope for its work impact regional (the Middle East & North Africa - Europe & Central Asia - North America - Latin America & Caribbean - East Asia & Pacific - South Asia - Sub-Saharan Africa)?*
- National: *Is the entity's defined or intended geographic scope for its work impact limited to a single country?*

Different from the 2022 Atlas, we added a new geographic scope to our categorization system to capture those organizations that while might have a global, regional or national intended scope, that scope is also focused on countries of the Global South. Thus, this new tag creates an overlapping categorization. Entities working in or seeking to have an impact in Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa or global (considering Entities tagged with "global" impact in various regions) were all categorized as "Global South".

- Global South: *Is this entity impacting regions or countries that make up the "Global South"? Is this entity impacting Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, or Sub-Saharan Africa? Is this entity categorized as "global" and hence impacting multiple regions?*

6. Programmatic scope (for Funders)

The geographic scope category was applied to both funders and organizations. Yet, the "programmatic scope" was an additional category applied solely to funders to better understand the intended impact of their funding. The purpose was to capture funders' defined or intended geographic impact for its work.

In this category, the main question was: What is the programmatic scope that the funder intends to impact with its funding programs?

- Global: *Is the funder's defined or intended programmatic impact for its work global? Is its scope multi-regional, but the regions are not specifically defined?*

- Regional: *Is the funder's defined or intended programmatic scope for its work impact regional (as per the regions defined for the geographic scope category)?*

- National: *Is the entity's defined or intended programmatic scope for its work impact limited to a single country?*

7. Topics (overlapping category)

Purpose of Category: to understand which topics are being purposefully or expressly covered by an entity. This is an overlapping category; one entity may focus on more than one topic via different programs or projects, and those can evolve over time. When an entity expressly declares one or multiple topics, those are identified and tagged.

Based on the objectives and criteria from Phase 1, the core guiding questions here were: *What are the topics that the Entities with an online presence strive to accomplish that have some intersection with a data governance or digital transformation activity? Has the entity tackled data or data governance to better inform, improve, and/or relate to these topics?*

Thus, when an entity presents a tag for a certain topic, for instance health, the question taken in mind by the team was: has the entity tackled data or data governance or digital transformation to improve health outcomes, including one or some of the following issues: patients' data, patient's rights, private or public health issues, or data for medical or drugs research? Another example could be the case of

gender, for which the main question was: has the entity tackled data or data governance to reduce gender inequality issues, including gender digital gap, and/or to increase women's and diverse people's rights or participation in democracy or professional life? Or, are data governance issues and digital transformation issues addressed from a feminist or LGBTQ+ perspective?

The only exception to this transversal question was the topic "data governance". For this topic in particular, the main question was: is this entity tackling data governance or any of its objectives? Entities assigned the "data governance" tag are working directly on data governance issues and might or might not approach it from another topic lens. It is important to note that the "data governance" topic was not an exclusionary tag, and organizations could be working on general data governance, and at the same time focus on a series of topics or work, for instance, in data infrastructure such as data stewardships.

Categories and topics

The mapping of 420 entities and more than 40 focus topics presented various challenges on categorization for simplicity of knowledge communication. Through internal workshops and desktop research, the following categories of topics were devised and used to categorize the topics identified. These could have been grouped in a number of different combinations and are not meant to constrain the analysis, but rather to provide a frame for the analysis and simplify navigation on the online platform. Below we provide our chosen categorization of topics and how it helps a user access and understand this methodological implementation.

Category	Description	Relevant topics within the category
People and Communities	This macro-category points to organizations that are equipping communities to better collect and/or use data, or organizations working to shed light on the impact of data on certain populations. This includes collective governance mechanisms like commons or trusts.	Children and Youth Gender Digital Inclusion Data Cooperatives
Infrastructure and Technology	Within this macro-category, organizations that work on different types of data are mapped, as well as those working on aspects related to advancing the debate on data infrastructures, digital public infrastructures and data-intensive technologies.	Data spaces Digital ID Artificial Intelligence Extended Reality
Norms and Trust	This macro-category brings together organizations that are working on values, norms, policies, and rights that will impact data governance frameworks at various levels, including innovative frameworks such as protocols or contracts.	Human Rights Privacy Free Speech Open Data
Economy and Development	Within this macro-category, organizations that work on generating or using data for sustainable development goals are mapped, as well as those generating or using data for economic uses and for driving a better, more equitable economy and society.	Economic Development Financial Inclusion Education and Skills Health
Planet and Sustainability	This macro-category points to organizations generating or using data for sustainability issues related to the environment and ensuring that the value of data is unlocked for the future and benefit of the Earth.	Agriculture Food Security Environment Energy

Topics under categories

1. Infrastructure and Technology

- Federated Data
- Metadata
- Research Data
- Connectivity
- Cybersecurity
- Data Infrastructure
- Data Repository
- Data Spaces
- Digital ID
- Digital Public Infrastructure
- E-Gov, Digital Government Transformation
- Homomorphic Encryption
- Interoperability
- Open Cloud
- Privacy Enhancing Technologies
- Artificial Intelligence
- Autonomous Weapons
- Blockchain
- Data Solutions
- Emerging Technologies
- Extended Reality (XR)
- Innovation

2. Norms and Trust

- Anti Corruption
- Competitiveness
- Consumer Protection
- Data Governance
- Data Sharing Agreements
- Data Standards
- Digital Rights
- Fairness
- Free Speech
- Geopolitics
- Governance
- Government
- Human Rights
- Internet Governance
- Justice
- Open Data
- Open Government
- Open Science
- Privacy
- Regulation
- Sandboxes
- Security and Safety
- Transparency
- Trust

3. People and Communities

- Gender Data
- Health Data
- Inclusive Data
- Multilingual Data
- Private Data
- Public Data
- Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Children and Youth
- Data Cooperatives/ Collaboratives
- Data Stewardships
- Data Trusts
- Data Science
- Data Sovereignty
- Digital Divide
- Digital Inclusion
- Digital Resilience
- Gender
- Indigenous rights
- Race
- Underrepresented Communities

4. Economy and Development

- Culture, Humanities and Arts
- Education and Skills
- Employment
- Entertainment
- Health
- Housing
- Media and Journalism
- Mental Health
- Migration and Refugees
- Science and Technology
- Economic Development
- Economic Recovery
- Entrepreneurship
- Financial Inclusion
- Trade and manufacturing

5. Planet and Sustainability

- Biodiversity Data
- Biomedical Data
- Environmental Data
- Aerospace
- Agriculture
- Air
- Cities
- Deforestation
- Energy
- Environment
- Floods
- Food Security
- Sustainability
- Sustainable Development
- Transportation
- Water

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