

# Digital regulation and Data for Better Outcomes – geographical and cultural perspectives

Moderator: Alexandra Seaman, Co-Founder, reState Foundation

Proper work with data is crucially important today because it underpins an outcomes-focused approach to digital regulation, supported by a robust evidence base. This approach is essential for ensuring regulations are not only effective but also proportionate to their objectives. Speakers will discuss the imperative for data-driven strategies across various sectors, including business, academia, and civil society. They also bring different geographical and cultural perspectives in digital regulation, underscoring the necessity for transparent progress tracking and the establishment of an evidence-backed regulatory framework.

The initial event on this topic took place as part of the event of the UN Science Summit Sessions on “Key Challenges and Objectives for Digital Cooperation, Governance and Regulation” ([Link to recording](#)). The 9th edition of the Science Summit around the 78th United Nations General Assembly (SSUNGA78) took place from 12-29 September 2023. The People Centered Internet (PCI) organized nine sessions in conjunction with the International Science Council from Sept 20-22 to discuss the future of digital in achieving the SDGs. The sessions took a people centered approach; this means to discuss how scientific and digital collaboration can only be advanced through human feedback loops. The People Centered Internet sessions explored the parameters of this approach focusing on specific use cases where this is needed to achieve the SDGs and discussing the recommended enabling policy, regulatory, and financial environments, that are required to support genuinely global scientific collaborations across continents, nations, and themes. Speakers from each panel summarized the most important results in a stocktaking ([Link](#)).

## Speakers

- Elina Idrisova, Regional Director, Digital Transformation, Elevatus
- Anastasis Stamatis, Chief Executive Officer, Dataphoria
- Julia Stamm, Chief Executive Officer, Data Tank
- Antoine Vergne, Co-Director, Missions Publiques

## Summary of Digital Regulation and Data for better Outcomes

*Prepared by Alexandra Seaman, Co-Founder, reState Foundation*

### **reState Foundation Highlights Key Takeaways from UN General Assembly Science Summit Panel on Digital Regulation and Data for Better Outcomes**

The 9th edition of the Science Summit during the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA78), held from September 12-29, 2023, marked a significant collaboration between reState Foundation and the People Centered Internet. From September 20-22, three sessions organized in conjunction with the International Science Council explored the future of digital in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With a people-centered approach, discussions delved into the crucial role of human feedback loops in advancing scientific and digital collaboration. The People Centered Internet sessions, in collaboration with reState Foundation, specifically examined use cases requiring this approach to achieve the SDGs. The focus extended to recommended enabling policies, regulations, and financial environments for fostering global scientific collaborations.

In a pivotal panel titled "Digital Regulation and Data for Better Outcomes – Geographical and Cultural Perspectives," the discussion centered around the significance of data as a new oil, underscoring its need for refinement to unlock its true potential.

Moderated by Alexandra Seaman, Co-Founder and Visionary Strategist at reState, the panel featured an esteemed lineup of speakers:

- Anastasis Stamatis, Chief Executive Officer, Dataphoria
- Elina Idrisova, Regional Director, Digital Transformation, Elevatus
- Antoine Vergne, Co-Director, Missions Publiques
- Julia Stamm, Chief Executive Officer, Data Tank

Julia Stamm, CEO of Data Tank, underscores the global importance of using data responsibly, sustainably, and equitably to inform decisions about the future. Her focus extends beyond Europe, advocating for a change in the narrative around data. She identifies trust as a central theme, emphasizing the need to build trust between data providers and receivers to facilitate safe and routine data sharing. Furthermore, Stamm highlights the significance of citizen empowerment, encouraging their involvement in decisions regarding how their data is used. She draws attention to the underrepresentation of voices from the global South in data regulation discussions and stresses the need for diverse perspectives in data collection and decision-making processes.

Antoine Vergne, Co-Director of Missions Publiques, brings attention to the handling of data policy with citizens, drawing from the Global Citizens Dialogue on the future of the Internet. He shares insights from a global initiative involving citizens in 76 countries, emphasizing diverse perspectives on data as a human right, infrastructure, and more. Notably, 30% of groups considered data a human right, showcasing the importance of tying data to human rights. Vergne reveals a substantial gap in attitudes toward sharing data, influenced by specific use cases, such as a higher willingness to share for COVID prevention. His insights shed light on the complexities of public engagement in data-related discussions.

Elina Idrisova, Regional Director of Digital Transformation at Elevatus, focuses on transforming HR and recruitment through AI-powered solutions, aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Her

emphasis lies in creating an unbiased and skill-based recruitment environment globally. Idrisova sees data as the modern oil, essential for understanding insights and navigating business environments. She discusses leveraging AI and analytics to streamline talent acquisition, improve workforce diversity, and enhance employee performance. Expanding the conversation, Idrisova applies the approach of generating and collecting data to non-human entities, specifically within the Internet of Things (IoT), stressing its crucial role in various industries.

Anastasis Stamatis, CEO of Dataphoria, delves into the realm of sustainability by helping companies and cities improve their performance, particularly in climate action. He emphasizes the necessity of a robust end-to-end strategy for specific policies and outcomes, highlighting the challenge of public trust linked to data literacy. Stamatis advocates for education and a strategic approach to ensure informed decisions and the best possible outcomes. Drawing from a census example in Greece, he illustrates how public understanding of data usage impacts participation. Stamatis underscores the importance of data literacy, building trust, and public education to facilitate responsible and impactful use of data.

#### Key Takeaways:

- The analogy of data being the new oil underscores the importance of refining and transforming raw data to unlock its true potential.
- Panelists explore diverse global perspectives on data-driven strategies in business, academia, and civil society, highlighting the need for transparency in progress tracking.
- Methods for involving citizens in co-creating policies are discussed, ensuring diverse insights and perspectives from various geographical and cultural contexts in digital regulation.
- The central role of trust is emphasized, particularly in building relationships between data providers and receivers, as well as involving citizens in decision-making processes.
- Significant variations in attitudes toward sharing data, influenced by specific use cases, are discussed, emphasizing the importance of a clear case for increased data sharing.

As the Science Summit chapter concludes, the resonance of "data as the new oil" echoes in our collective pursuit of a digitally regulated future. With diverse perspectives and transparent collaboration, we are sculpting a path where data becomes a catalyst for positive global change. Let these insights inspire us to navigate the digital landscape responsibly, ensuring a future where innovation and collaboration foster progress, leaving no one behind.