OUTLINE

Big data in Europe: Are Privacy and Freedom under threat?

How has data become "big"? Where, who and how is it collected and stored?
What are the use and misuse cases?
Should solutions be technical, regulatory or blended? How do we achieve that?

1. Scope

In the last years, the term "**Big Data"** has started to be used extensively in relation with the **digital future of Europe**. But what is actually meant by "Big Data" and what challenges does it raise for society in general and for Democracy and Politics in particular?

Big Data is a term that refers to a very large set of data that are produced by people using the internet, and that can only be stored, understood, and used with the help of special tools and methods.

These collected data sets, coming from many different sources, are so large and complex that they require new technologies, such as algorithms and artificial intelligence, to be processed.

Big Data has generated an added value for citizens, academia, the scientific community and the public and private sectors as they provide huge opportunities in the areas of healthcare, the fight against climate change, the enablement of smart cities and so on. Big Data can be seen as a facilitator for better decision-making and as a source for predictions and actionable insights.

Therefore, one can state that the issue for democracy and citizens is not related to Big Data as such, which is a neutral technology in itself, but rather to the type of data which is processed.

When this data relates to people, their privacy, their health condition, their opinions, then the processing of this data entails the risk to be misused by companies, by states, by public authorities.

When dealing with personal data, Big Data entails significant risks, with regard to the protection of fundamental rights, the right to privacy, data protection, non-discrimination and data security. Other issues are related to the use of bad / irrelevant data and their use in creating disinformation.

The present webinar aims at addressing these concerns.

2. Key issues

The seminar could shed light over the following questions:

- Are policy makers aware of the potential of Big Data and the necessity to protect citizens from privacy and fundamental rights violations, invasive marketing?

- Will Big Data help us better understand the citizens, the local communities and political movements or will they be used to manipulate the votes and track the dissent and suppress the freedom of speech?

- What is the impact of Dig Data on the way we do politics?

- What can be done to enhance cybersecurity in relation with Big Data?

- Is it ethical to use the Big Data obtained in other countries that do not respect the EU standards in the area?

- What can be done in order to level the game field in the area of Big Data if not all the actors respect the same ethical standards?

- Can EU Members States agree on a common set of regulations to safeguard Citizen's fundamental freedoms?

- Would the Establishment of a European Data supervisor be efficient? What democratic scrutiny should it entail?

3. Expected outcome

- Raising awareness on the ethical challenges posed by Big Data for democracy

- Call on EU decision makers to address the issue and keep up to date with fast evolving technologies

- Enhance alignment on fundamental drivers and dilemmas

- Involve Citizens and younger generations into the discussion

4. Format

Webinar of 1h-1h30 in EN + FR interpretation

5. Participants

- Expert researchers and analysts in Big Data research

- Students

- Young politicians

6. Speakers

Alexandra LEULIETTE, IED Board Member

Ioan-Cosmin MIHAI, Cybercrime Training Officer at European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) *To be confirmed*

Quentin JARDON, Co-founder of the magazines Wilfried and Eddy, visiting professor at IHECS, Quentin Jardon has, among other things, carried out a major investigation on Frank Robben, the "Belgian Big Brother", published in Wilfried in June 2020.

Hubert MARCUEYZ, Business Analyst - Orion Health France, PhD in Medical ethics, University of Paris V

Moderator:

Jennifer BAKER, European journalist reporting EU Policy, Tech and Digital Rights