

Foundation Forum 21

Regulation, Innovation, Standards

OUTCOME REPORT

AI Security & Privacy



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Executive summary



Executive summary

Data has been described as the oxygen that is fuelling [the digital transformation](#) and [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#) is a key driver for a transformation that all organisations, large and small, now face.

AI can increase productivity and power the digital and [green twin transition](#).

One spin-off from the Covid-19 pandemic has been a sea change in digital transformation affecting all sectors. Industries from pharmaceuticals to manufacturing, and services have begun to build an enabling foundation for the digital society.

The European Union (EU) and the Member States are now looking to develop new regulations to guide this journey.

But the growing reliance on AI-powered tools has, at the same time, raised questions about their reliability, trustworthiness and accountability.

In April 2021, the European Commission attempted to address some of these concerns when it presented draft legislative regulations. The aim is to offer AI developers, implementers and users with [more clarity](#) and ensure [a greater take-up of AI across the EU](#).

The Commission has prioritised legislation to regulate emerging technologies, including AI through the Artificial Intelligence Act and the upcoming Data Act and facilitating the creation of European data spaces in specific sectors such as health and transportation.

The draft legislation follows a [New Legislative Framework \(NFL\)](#) regime whereby manufacturers need to run a conformity assessment fulfilling certain essential requirements in terms of accuracy, robustness and cybersecurity.

So, why the need for multi-stakeholder dialogue?

With such a fast-changing data landscape and upcoming legislation, there is an urgent need to foster inclusive stakeholder dialogue and venues have already swiftly emerged for collaboration between industry practitioners and standard-setters.

To foster such dialogue around all things AI, Huawei supported the Foundation Forum 2021, an initiative focused on the developing AI assurance framework and common standards for AI security and privacy across the supply chain.

The Foundation Forum, chaired by Global Digital Foundation, is an opportunity to bring regulators, standard-setters and innovators together to engage in such a [dialogue on AI standards](#), a necessary exercise in order to build bridges between these different worlds.

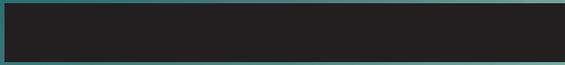
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Session proceedings



Session proceedings

Against the current policy environment and framework for AI, the Forum organised a virtual discussion on 7 December 2021 to debate the regulatory framework for the further development of AI and current digital legislation.

The focus was on both the advantages and potential pitfalls of AI but, specifically, three topics came under the spotlight: AI innovation and regulatory frameworks in Europe; enabling AI and data space innovation with SMEs and, lastly, securing a global AI ecosystem and standards.

Three organisations, CEPS (Centre for European Policy Studies), Eclipse Foundation and ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute), were among those who took part in the Forum, which focused on the role of AI regulation, technology, cybersecurity and privacy standards in enabling AI innovation and data governance in Europe. These are the three entities that originally convened the Foundation Forum, facilitated by Global Digital Foundation.

CEPS is at the forefront of leading the policy discussion around AI security and proposing policy recommendations while Eclipse Foundation brings together an innovative industry ecosystem promoting Open Source and industry collaboration.

ETSI, meanwhile, is a leader in setting futureproof standards for Secure AI.

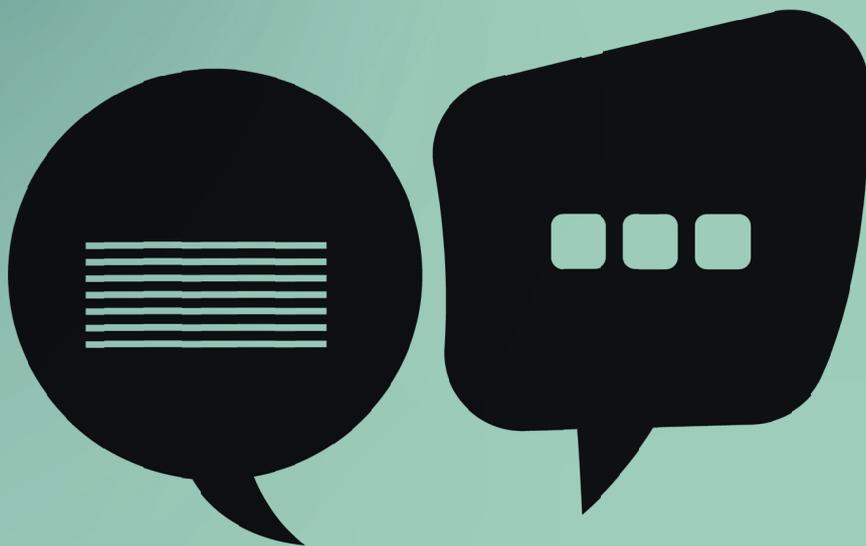
Global Digital Foundation is a think tank that offers policymakers a framework for dialogue with stakeholders and with their counterparts in other countries so that they can develop a shared understanding of the challenges of policy in a digital world.

Other attendees came from a diverse group of stakeholders across different sectors, including policy-makers, cybersecurity agencies, the EU institutions, standards bodies and industry.

Participants shared their thoughts on how regulation, innovation and standards can be applied to realise the much-vaunted digital transformation.

The hybrid debate is timely as it contributes to the ongoing policy discussion around cybersecurity in AI, supply chain security and ways of combating potential malicious uses of AI.

Opening remarks



Opening remarks

Opening the day-long event, Paul MacDonnell, Executive Director at Global Digital Foundation, reminded the audience that the think tank was founded to offer analysis of public policy affecting the development and the use of digital technologies and as an information platform for digital innovators, regulators and legislators.

In a keynote speech, Italian MEP Brando Benifei, a Member of the European Parliament's Special Committee on artificial intelligence in a digital age, whose work continues, cautioned that the institution's work on the file was still at a **"very early stage."**

Even so, he believes one of **"the hottest issues"** - and one that MEPs are already **"looking at with special attention"** - is the use of AI in the workplace.

This, he said, is a **"very delicate topic and very sensitive, where we need to understand how we can involve the social partners so that we have certainty that there are no rules breached in the absence of even basic understanding by workers who are dealing with AI systems."**

He said, **"Today, this is not the case."**

The aim of the committee's work will be to find **"compromises"** and **"agreement"** between the parliament and member states on the EU draft legislation.

Another issue, he noted, is transparency, adding **"we have seen a lot of scandals related to espionage and the control and misuse of data."**

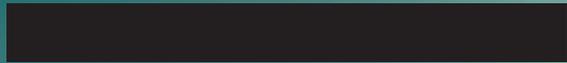
"We want to be very sure that the AI is not used to going down this road," added the MEP, also a member of the Parliament's internal market and consumer protection committee.

Further comment came from another MEP, Tsvetelina Penkova, from Bulgaria and a member of the committee on industry research and energy, who has a particular interest in how **"properly regulated"** AI can benefit European consumers. She noted, **"We've all seen how important technologies are in terms of our everyday life, affecting the way we can do business, study and travel. Basically, there is little that is not affected by emerging technologies."**

AI is going to be the key technology of the future, she believes, but all should be aware and be prepared for possible **"risks"** associated with the technology.

Topic 1

AI Innovation & Regulatory Frameworks for Europe



Moderated discussion by **Lorenzo Pupillo**, Associate Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Cybersecurity, CEPS

Interventions by:

Daniel Loevenich, BSI GISA, Germany

Bojana Bellamy, President, Center for Information Policy Leadership at Hunton & Williams LLP

Orestis Trasanidis, AI Lead EIT InnoDigital & EIT CrossKIC

Carolina Rossini, Co-founder, Chief Impact and Partnerships Officer, the DataSphere Initiative, Prof of Law, Boston University



Topic 1

AI Innovation & Regulatory Frameworks for Europe

The first of the Forum's three debating panels, "AI Innovation & Regulatory Frameworks for Europe", focused on how the EU's new Artificial Intelligence Act and other relevant legislation will impact industry in Europe.

It was moderated by Lorenzo Pupillo, Associate Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Cybersecurity at CEPS, the organisation which has provided a raft of important policy recommendations on AI from a security and privacy perspective.

Pupillo, in particular, highlighted the work done by his organisation, via a specially-formed task force, on AI and cybersecurity.

One of the task force findings, he said, is that improving the "robustness, response, resilience and responsiveness" of systems is necessary to address current concerns about AI, especially when applied to cybersecurity.

Seizing on this theme, Bojana Bellamy, President of the Centre for Information Policy Leadership at Hunton and Williams, invited the audience to consider privacy aspects of AI.

She warned that a "regulatory tsunami" is currently underway in Europe and that the transformation into a digital world and a fourth and fifth industrial revolution is "truly galloping ahead."

It is not just about preventing risks and addressing challenges, she believes, but also "about enabling data to flow through Europe so that data can be used (and re-used) to develop new AI based technologies."

This will allow Europe's businesses to compete and grow and give today's European start-ups the chance to become "tech giants of the future."

Carolina Rossini, co-founder and Chief Impact and Partnerships Officer at the DataSphere Initiative, said that while it may be true that the European Union's institutions have taken a "globally significant step" with their legislative proposals, including the Artificial Intelligence Act, academics and human rights advocates warn that these initiatives currently offer "narrow safeguards."

Rossini, also a law professor at Boston University, noted, "we still read that data will change our lives in the 21st century, when data has already started changing it for a couple of decades now and the benefits and challenges of this are being felt in every single aspect of our lives."

AI and cybersecurity is a double edged sword, she argues, presenting huge advantages but also posing both serious security and ethical concerns.

The panel also heard that if AI is properly integrated into everyday life and work, it could raise economic productivity in Europe by almost 20%, worth about €2.7 trillion to the European economy by 2030.

Further contribution in the opening panel came from Daniel Loevenich, of BSI Germany (the Federal Office for Information Security) who spoke about horizontal and sectoral standards, evaluation criteria and embedded products in the AI supply chain.

He said he was “very much” concerned with the EU’s AI Act proposal and the demands of industry considering AI standardization and with respect to cyber security which is his company’s core business.

On the AI Act, he said that, from the cyber security angle, AI “seems to be a clear ‘plenary’ for horizontal AI standards, which in our opinion, is the right way to do it.”

Secondly, he believes sectoral standards are also needed and that the harmonized standards as described in the AI Act could be the basis for evaluating AI products and systems.

He said, “If you look at all these embedded AI systems and their requirements, you need to look at some common criteria across these systems. This is what we at BSI call criteria catalogs.”

Considering the demands of industry, he advocates concentrating on certain types of standards and evaluation criteria catalog with respect to conformity testing and the corresponding methodology catalog.

His various recommendations cover, it was noted, the whole supply chain of AI systems, from the infrastructure provider, to development and, finally, the end customer.

“We have to consider the embedded AI products and systems within other, the technical product and keep in mind that AI is just a module or a component.”



Key messages

One of the key messages to emerge from the opening session was that while some tensions may currently exist in the way AI technology develops, the aim is to address and eliminate such concerns.

Another is that, in considering AI applications, people are urged not just to look at risks but also at the benefits and also ask: what are we trying to achieve with AI?

Extra care is also advised in designing data governance approaches to tackle what most agree are complex problems, including those surrounding AI. It is important no “one is left behind” so that the benefits and economic opportunities generated by AI are shared by all.



“AI is a double edge sword to enhance security, reliability and resilience but also expands the threat landscape and can intro ethical, bias concerns. There are lots of initiatives to accelerate AI in EU Public Services, Industry and Life.”

Lorenzo Pupillo

Associate Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Cybersecurity, CEPS



“There is a lot happening in Europe, how to make this heard by regulators and leverage the market driven best practice tool. But, how do SME know how, they need a best practice catalog, need to break silos at regulator and nurture data in Europe.”

Bojana Bellamy

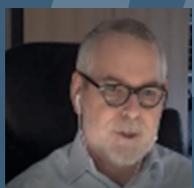
President, Center for Information Policy Leadership at Hunton & Williams LLP



“The challenge for EIT is how to operationalize AI Act across the diversity of AI technology, domains and deployment scenarios.”

Orestis Trasanidis

AI Lead EIT InnoDigital & EIT CrossKIC



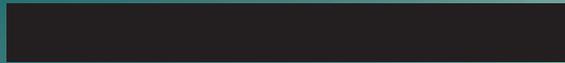
“AI seems to be clear plenary for horizontal AI standards, Secondly, on top, we need sectoral AI standards. We should concentrate standards and evaluation criteria catalogs for conformity testing and corresponding testing methodology extendable to support the progress of AI.”

Daniel Loevenich

BSI GISA, Germany

Topic 2

Enabling Industrial AI and Data Space Innovation in Europe



Moderated by **Marc Vloemans**, Head AI, Cloud Edge (AICE) OpenLab Eclipse Foundation

Interventions by:

Antonio La Marra, CEO Security Forge, an SME focused on data protection and cybersecurity

Prof. Fabio Martinelli, Research director of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), Vice Chair, ECSO and expert adviser to H2020 Protection and Security Advisory Group (PASAG)

Dr. Theo Dimitrakos, R&D Director, Data Sovereignty Huawei and Professor University of Kent

Dr. Thorsten Jelinek, Founder, Digital Platform Governance (DPG) and Senior Fellow, Taihe Institute



Topic 2

Enabling Industrial AI and Data Space Innovation in Europe

A second panel discussion, “Enabling Industrial AI & Data Space Innovation in Europe”, looked at how Europe is working to enable innovative use of AI and how SME innovation and data spaces can accelerate Europe’s digital transformation.

The panel was moderated by Marc Vloemans, Head of AI and Cloud Edge (AICE) at the OpenLab Eclipse Foundation, who was keen to highlight the value of collaboration.

He said, “Recently, we have established the AICE, open lab for AI, Cloud and Edge. Why did we do it? Well, we felt that in the European domain, artificial intelligence and open cloud were prime drivers behind the industry. What we felt was lacking was a place where everybody could collaborate.”

He went on, “Therefore, we said, let’s sort of try to find a common place where participants can work on issues like trust, security, privacy and work on interoperability and to test whatever they feel needs to be researched.”

Another speaker was Antonio La Marra, CEO at Security Forge, an SME focused on data protection and cybersecurity. When asked to explain what it was like to be an SME in a world often seen as being dominated by tech giants, replied, “Actually, it is a very great opportunity because AI has enabled a lot of SMEs to grow really a lot.”

The Pisa-based La Marra added, “AI mostly is based on the model that you’re able to build on top of the data that you have. So, of course, the more data the better the model. But it’s true that if you are very good at shaping a significant model, then your algorithm can be very beneficial. I can mention a lot of start-ups who are very famous for the algorithm, the most famous being Tiktok, mainly in the US and China because, basically, their AI algorithm was so powerful that the user wanted to be on the platform for very long and significant time compared with other social media, for example.”

Dr. Thorsten Jelinek, founder of the Digital Platform Governance (DPG) and Senior Fellow at the Taihe Institute, agrees that 2022 will be an “exciting time” for businesses and industry, but that when it comes to tapping into the full potential offered by AI “many have not yet started, that’s for sure.”

He believes, even so, that there is “a great momentum” towards the digital transformation but cautions that this will also bring more regulation.

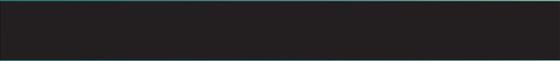
“This, though, can create certainty,” he said, adding, “So it’s not all that bad.”

Prof. Fabio Martinelli, research director of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), also took part in the 2nd session, saying he wants to see SMEs “properly and better manage” data so as to “unleash its (data) power”.

Another participant, Dr. Theo Dimitrakos, R&D Director at Data Sovereignty for Huawei, noted that while much of current innovation in the sphere of AI and new and emerging technologies is happening in Europe, the Continent also has the problem, “or the unique situation”, of facing more and stricter regulation than most other regions of the world.

The panel also heard of a need to reduce administrative and regulatory burdens in order to support innovation in this sphere. It is also necessary to find a right balance between competitiveness and developing an AI ecosystem, it was said.

Key messages



One key takeaway from the session is that it will be vital to foster close multi-stakeholder collaboration so that all participants can work on a raft of related issues, ranging from trust and security to privacy.

Another message to emerge from the debate was that, currently, not all SMEs have sufficient technical capability to manage the “huge” volumes of data, both technical or personal, with which they are often confronted.

One other key point highlighted by panel speakers was the importance of making sure that SMEs and those who work with AI have secure processes to handle data in what is deemed to be a “careful, compliant and consistent way.”



“SME’s do not have all the capability to manage AI data but the situation improves with platforms to enable SME’s to unleash the power. SME need to connect with enterprises, and research. GAJA-X and other initiatives will help SME’s to navigate regulation.”

Prof. Fabio Martinelli

Research director of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), Vice Chair, ECSO and expert adviser to H2020 Protection and Security Advisory Group (PASAG)

“This AI Act proposal comes at a time when AI and the data economy in EU is focused on the consumer, but for AI we focus on industrial, non personal data. This is where the momentum will be, but depends on data availability alliances.”

Dr. Thorsten Jelinek

Founder, Digital Platform Governance (DPG) and Senior Fellow, Taihe Institute



“The ability to federate, share and control the usage of data, especially between different companies, in user data spaces, or possibly in the future between different member states or indeed, globally needs clear obligations, and ways of enforcing these obligations.”

Dr. Theo Dimitrakos

R&D Director, Data Sovereignty Huawei and Professor University of Kent

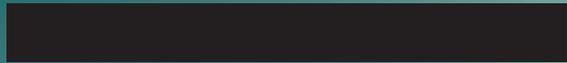
“The AICE lab is a common place where participants can work on issues like trust, security, privacy, interoperability, quality and certification - creating test tools to test data and components.”

Marc Vloemans

Head AI, Cloud Edge (AICE) OpenLab Eclipse Foundation

Topic 3

The Road Ahead, Securing a Global AI Ecosystem and Standards



Moderated by **Dr. George Sharkov**, Vice Chair ETSI SAI, Chief Ass. Professor Plovdiv University & MD Europe Software Institute CEE

Interventions by:

Ray Walshe, Director EU Standards Observatory, Convener EUOS Foresight Committee, ISO Standards lead, Ireland, GAIA-X Hub, National Coordinator, Assistant Professor, Dublin City University

Prof. Markus Helfert, Director EMPOWER Data Governance National Research Center, Ireland and Director, Innovation Value Institute

Loretta Tioiela, Co-founder OpenSynBio.org & FabricX and member of the European AI Alliance



Topic 3

The Road Ahead, Securing a Global AI Ecosystem and Standards

The third and final panel debate, “The Road Ahead, Securing a Global AI Ecosystem & Standards”, debated privacy and security, standards and data governance.

It was moderated by Ray Walshe, Director of the EU Standards Observatory, who told the audience, “We should remember that standards are living documents. They evolve and the evolution of documents along with new technologies can be supported by engaging with standardisation at an early stage.”

He added, “There has been an explosion of data and it is often hard trying to get your head round the sheer amount and volume of data that is out there now. But make no mistake: data is the oxygen that is fuelling the digital transformation.”

Walshe, also an Assistant Professor at Dublin City University in Ireland, explained the ongoing work of his EU Observatory project on standardisation, which is funded by the EU to the tune of €4m across the EU.

“As we have heard today, these are very exciting times for the sector, but looking ahead, there is still work to be done, including on the privacy perspective of AI,” he said.

Another panellist, Dr. George Sharkov, MD of the Europe Software Institute CEE, told the event’s virtual audience that securing AI for future applications was and will remain a “complex area.”

The main “threat landscape” not only relates to data and is vital to also understand that AI is “not just another new technology.”

As such, fast-changing models and standards will need to address not just AI technology but the entire AI ecosystem, he argues.

Sharkov told the session that to face the many new challenges in the field it will be necessary to look at where “vulnerabilities” currently exist in terms of AI potentially being compromised.

Also taking part in the concluding panel debate was Prof. Markus Helfert, Director of the EMPOWER Data Governance National Research Center in Ireland. which, he said, has access to more than 1,000 researchers across multiple centers. The newly established programme he oversees brings together “exciting” research initiatives around data governance, data sharing and data quality in Ireland.

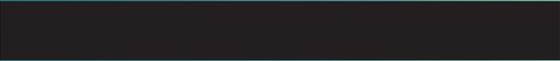
He is also director of the Innovation Value Institute, a multi-disciplinary hub, The initiative, he noted, also offers opportunities for all those involved to innovate and share business models. “We work with both small and large companies with the aim being to build a true AI ecosystem and bring all this work to the next step.”

Another panel contributor was Loretta Tioiela, co-founder of OpenSynBio.org & FabricX and also a member of the European AI Alliance. She spoke of the foundation’s work and, in particular, called for a regulatory “sandbox”, a demand also made by other speakers.

She said, “There is a tremendous chance here for Europe to position itself in what is an important field and also as a strong competitor. But Europe should not just react to events but provide leadership. We have a tremendous amount of scientific knowledge in Europe that we must build on what we have already achieved.”

She reminded the audience that this was a market that, it has been predicted, could be worth some €6 trillion by 2025.

Key messages



One of the messages to come out of the concluding session is that the health pandemic should serve as a reminder for the urgent need to share more data in the fight against coronavirus and other future viruses.

Another is that to take full advantage of artificial intelligence and other developing technologies, Europe must adapt and develop a fully-fledged AI ecosystem.

Emphasis was also placed on maintaining respect for the EU's "fundamental values" on data protection and continuing careful scrutiny of the European Commission's legislative proposals in the field.



“If you have the mapping of regulatory and technical requirements defined with a proper certification framework then you will ensure the market will receive.”

Dr. George Sharkov

Vice Chair ETSI SAI, Chief Ass. Professor Plovdiv University & MD Europe Software Institute CEE



“Building a body of data governance knowledge will assist the industry to automate work flows, practices, processes to enable interoperability”

Prof. Markus Helfert

Director EMPOWER Data Governance National Research Center, Ireland and Director, Innovation Value Institute, Matnooth University, Ireland.



“The evolution of the technology can be supported by engaging early with standardisation which gives you interoperability at Global Scale”

Ray Walshe

Director EU Standards Observatory, Convener EUOS Foresight Committee, ISO Standards lead, Ireland, GAIA-X Hub, National Coordinator, Assistant Professor, Dublin City University, Ireland



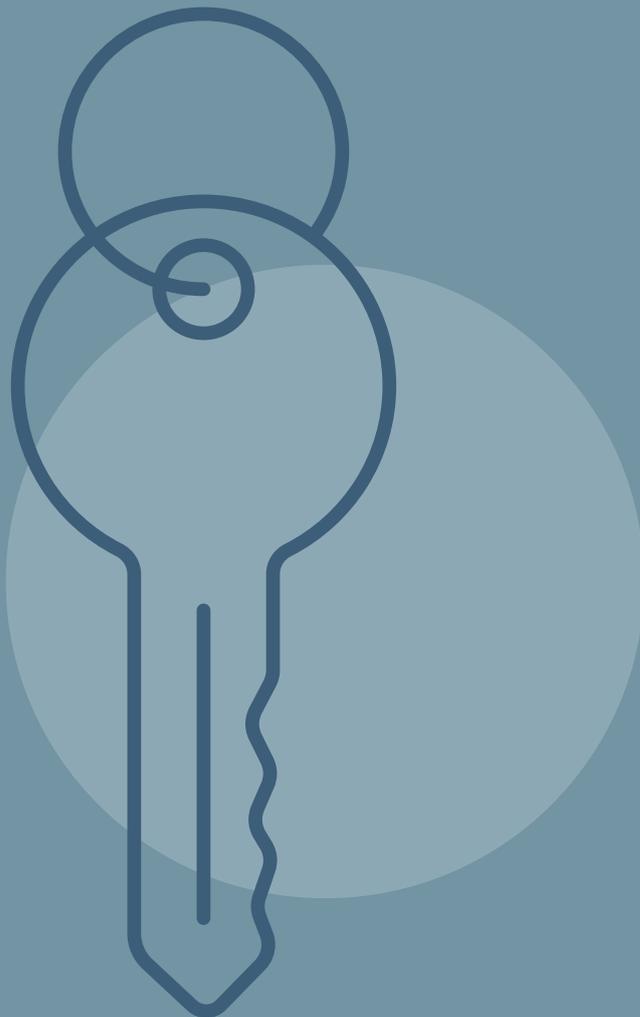
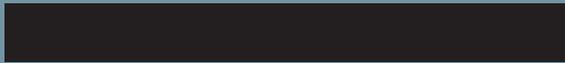
Conclusions

A lively and stimulating discussion was closed by Robin Wauters, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Tech.eu, who highlighted some of the event's main talking points, saying, "As we have heard a lot is clearly happening in the sector but now is the time to turn all these things and all of this into action.

"We should encourage policy makers to quickly adopt new legislation and I would also recommend that we look in a more holistic way at data regulation."



Key takeaways



Key takeaways

Three key contributors were asked what they considered to be the common takeaways, the next steps and their expectations from the policy side.

Summing up, John Higgins, chairman of the Global Digital Foundation, said, “For me it all about maximising the value of AI for European economies. But we should also be mindful that, when it comes to digital issues, public trust is actually falling in Europe and elsewhere. So, something has to be done. This has to be addressed and another key issue is data.

With the European Parliament’s special committee on AI due to conclude its work later this year, Higgins believes it is vital that the industry and AI ecosystem continue to press for a sound policy environment, adding, “We have, at this event today, brought together, a team – it is like a football team, really – that MEP Brando Benifei and his fellow policymakers will have to work with. Like a football team getting results, we must also keep our eyes fixed on the main prize which, in this case, is reaping the full benefits from AI.”

“So, my message is: let’s not all go off in different directions or we will miss that big prize.”

John Suffolk, President of Global Cyber Security & Privacy Officer at Huawei, also agrees on the necessity for the sector to ensure its voice is heard on the issue, saying, “We have been told we won’t get a new law in Europe on AI for up to two years but I have warn you today that technology will not wait.”

He also noted, “It seems there are hundreds of bodies involved in AI these days – they are all jumping on the bandwagon - and there are many people who have their fingers in the AI pie.”

Another issue he highlighted was the regulatory burden on small companies, saying, “I have immense sympathy for SMEs. They are the lifeblood of European economic prosperity but they are currently being inundated with a raft of new regulations. For me, we should therefore be removing regulatory barriers for them wherever possible.”

Also providing an overview of the conference was Bojana Bellamy, President of the Center for Information Policy Leadership at Hunton & Williams LLP.

For her the main takeaway was the sheer magnitude of what is happening in Europe in the sector, from regulation and standardisation to innovation and the impact of the digital transformation on SMEs.

She said, “The question, therefore, for me is this: how do we bring all these discussions and participants together and make them heard by the European Union and its various institutions? How do we get people, including SMEs, to know about all this and all that we have heard today?”

This should be addressed along with the need for a “new narrative around data issues.”

Bellamy wants to “break silos and look at all this in a more holistic way.”

Concluding, she also flagged up the issue of data availability, recalling that the event had heard that some 50 per cent of time is spent on collecting data. “Who has got time to do that?” she asked.

“Clearly, from what we have heard, there is a real desire for a better way of sharing all this data.”



“The Foundation Forum is the unique place to bring together stakeholders from disparate ecosystems (regulatory, standards development bodies, technology and industry + innovation experts)”

John Higgins

Chair, Global Digital Foundation

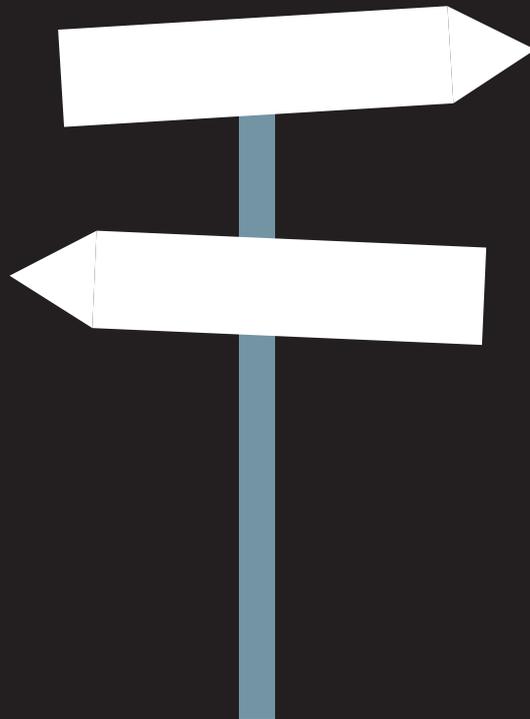


“SME’s face with regulation, we need to lighten their load on regulations, reduce their burden, invest and support them as they are the lifeblood of Europe.”

John Suffolk

President, Global Cyber Security & Privacy Officer at Huawei

What's next



What's next

The European Commission's draft Artificial Intelligence Act is the first comprehensive attempt at global level to regulate specific uses of AI systems. The draft Regulation uses a risk-based approach to classify AI systems with different requirements and obligations, according to their intended purpose and level of risk.

But what are the requirements driving an Industry AI System Assurance framework? Well, to address the current information gap, an effective AI assurance ecosystem is required. Such an ecosystem is emerging for AI, with a range of companies starting to offer assurance services. Some possible assurance techniques have been put forward and regulators are beginning to set out how AI might be assured. But this ecosystem is currently fragmented, leading to calls for better coordination. An effective AI assurance ecosystem will play an enabling role, unlocking both the economic and social benefits.

A second issue raised is that of multi-role co-governance, responsibility sharing, and global unified standards and independent certification systems: regulator, public, supplier, customer, and neutral third-party certification bodies.

As the underlying technology that comprises 5G has developed, a variety of industry groups, working hand-in-hand with national and international regulatory agencies, have collaborated to ensure global scalability of the next generation of cellular. This unified approach, as with previous generations of technology, is an imperative. After all, our world continues to become more connected and electrified. But in order for all of that to work, there needs to be a unified set of standards. The overall aim should be to bring digital to every person, home, and organization for a fully connected, intelligent world.

Is this new framework based on the right principles and approach to foster innovative and trustworthy AI solutions? What impact can be expected on AI providers and users? Will the AI Act boost the uptake of AI and guarantee a human-centered approach?

These are just some of the issues and questions the Foundation Forum sought to address with the debate. The potential of artificial intelligence cannot be unlocked without data sharing, which helps start-ups and businesses develop an ecosystem based on EU standards.

There is a consensus that we are at the beginning of the age of AI and Europe will require more and more data. But the data revolution will not wait for Europe and all stakeholders need to act now if European digital companies want to have a place among the world's top digital innovators.

Of course, this is a discussion that will continue in the coming weeks and months and that is why the need for a continuing multi-stakeholder dialogue, as outlined at the very start of the event, is more urgent than ever.

What is also clear, and was similarly agreed upon by all contributors at the virtual debate, is that the Foundation Forum is a particularly productive platform for hosting such a dialogue.

Global Digital Foundation

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