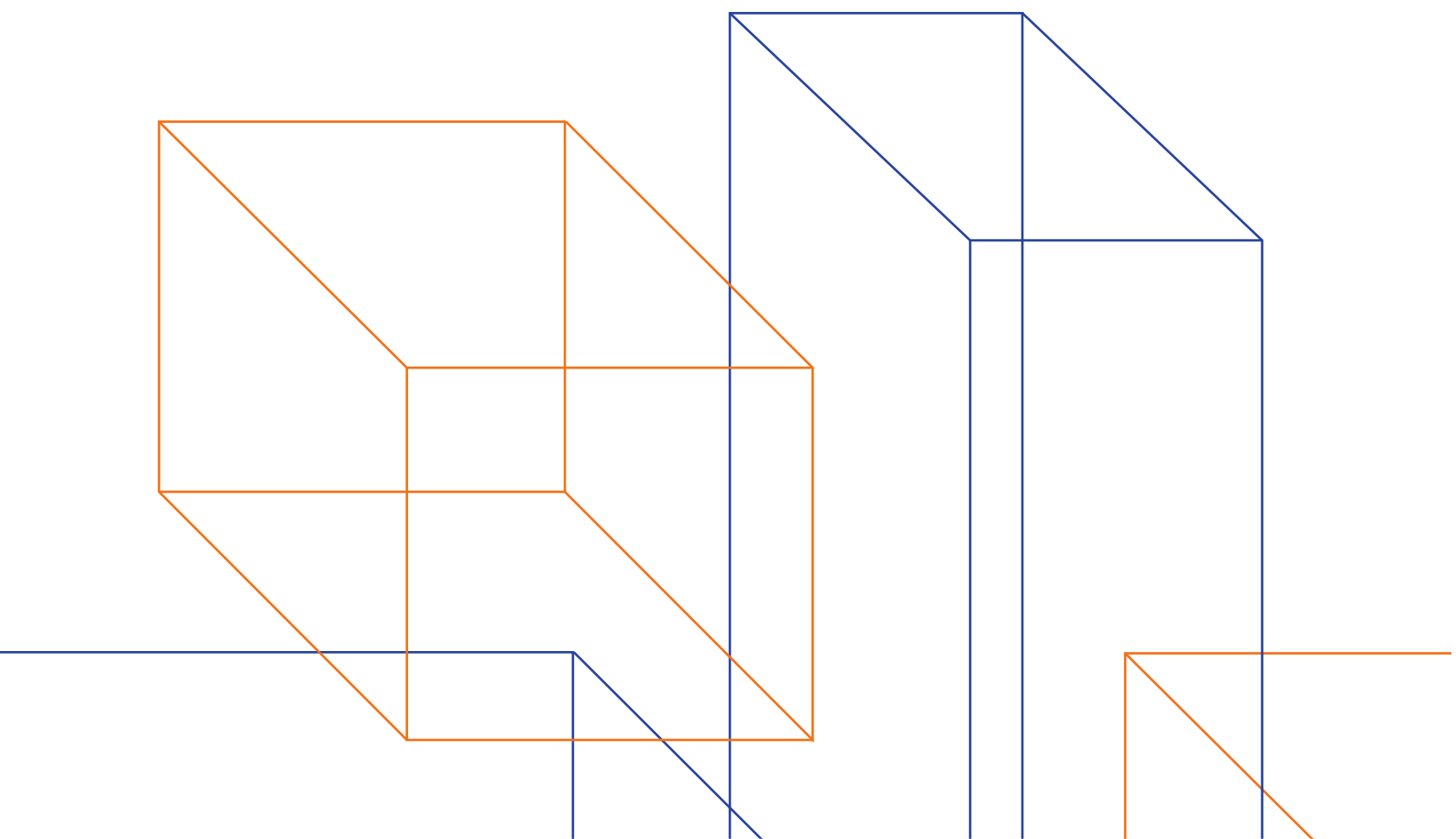


THE STATE OF THE UNION

Building Europe in times of uncertainty

PARTNERS' PANELS



THE STATE OF THE UNION

PARTNERS PROGRAMME

13th Edition | May 2023, Florence | In-person

Building Europe in times of uncertainty

The State of the Union conference 2023 includes an array of partners' panels contributing with alternative perspectives to the overarching SOU2023 theme "**Building Europe in times of uncertainty**".

These panels, held in parallel to the institutional programme - Thursday **4 May** at the Badia Fiesolana and Friday **5 May** at Palazzo Vecchio - are intellectually independent from the main programme.

Thursday, 4 May 2023 | Badia Fiesolana, European University Institute

09.45-10.45	BAYER
EUI Scientific Coordinator: Erik Jones	<p>The Future of European Agriculture: Sustainability, Sufficiency, Security</p> <p>Opening: Janusz Czesław Wojciechowski, Commissioner for Agriculture, European Commission</p> <p>European agriculture is undergoing a profound transformation that requires a strategic response. The combination of climate change, violent conflict, and technological innovation has created new challenges and opportunities. European leaders have to decide whether they want to outsource agricultural production or help European industry develop in ways that are sustainable, sufficient, and secure. This choice will have important implications across Europe – affecting society and culture, as well as employment and consumption. It will have implications for the wider world as well.</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Fabio Santeramo, Marie Curie Fellow at the Robert Schuman Centre, EUI</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i> Mauro Agnoletti, UNESCO Chair Agricultural Heritage Landscapes. Institute of Higher Education, University of Florence Matthias Berninger, Executive Vice President, Public Affairs, Science, Sustainability & HSE, Bayer Jonathan Hepburn, Counsellor, World Trade Organization Lauren Phillips, Deputy Director, Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality, FAO</p>
11:30-12:30	POSTE ITALIANE
EUI Scientific Coordinator: Pier Luigi Parcu	<p>A Human-centric digital transition: innovation and inclusiveness</p> <p>The European Commission has often promoted a "human-centric" vision of digital technologies as the guiding principle for both public and private actors when developing and deploying new technologies. As clearly expressed in the "Declaration on European Digital Rights and Principles" (22 January 2022), choosing a human-centric approach to the digital transition means that "putting people at the center of the digital transition is a key priority" for Europe. Aims such as fostering participation in the digital public space, increasing safety, security, empowerment of individuals, and ensuring freedom of choice in the digital environment are associated to this vision. In this respect, there are still many challenges associated with the digital transformation that need to be addressed and, specifically, the enormous digital divide that many countries continue to experience nowadays. Considering that the digital divide policies are focused primarily on physical access to infrastructures and</p>

starting from the idea that our digital future cannot exist without robust, resilient and accessible infrastructures, this panel discusses the role of essential physical infrastructures as foundations and enabler of the digital transition. The panel will also look at how addressing the digital divide and the digital transitions are drivers for change and growth in Europe and how the transition will be financed.

Moderator: **Cosimo Pacciani**, Head of Research, Poste Italiane

Co-moderator: **Anna Renata Pisarkiewicz**, Research Fellow, EUI

Speakers:

Vladimiro Ceci, Head of Strategic Marketing and Head of Staff, Poste Italiane

Filomena Chirico, Head of Unit, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Beatrice Covassi, Member, European Parliament

Barbara Navarro, Head of Research, Public Policy and Institutional Relations, Santander

14:10-15:10

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Erik Jones

MCKINSEY GLOBAL INSTITUTE

Are we on the cusp of a new era?

Current turbulence is surely more than the progression of “just” another business cycle. To gauge what the current conjunction of events might mean and the possible path ahead, the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) took a historical view on the structural tectonics that have reshaped today's world. Today's disruptions are the fourth “earthquake” since the end of World War II, the other three being the immediate aftermath of the conflict, the 1970s oil crisis, and the reshaping of Europe as the Soviet Union broke up. With our panelists and participants, we'd like to explore a number of questions, including: What are the most critical disruptions changing the world today? Are there parallels from the past from which we can learn, helping us to write a new narrative of progress? How could the next wave of technologies impact work and society? How can we most effectively ensure we have the energy we need while forging along the path to net zero? The discussion will build on MGI's recent paper, “On the cusp of a new era?”, a framework for thinking about the future through the lens of the past.

Moderator: **Peggy Hollinger**, International Business Editor, Financial Times

Speakers:

Heather Grabbe, Senior Adviser, Open Society Foundations

Alessandro Merli, Associate Fellow, SAIS Europe

Nicolas Petit, Professor, EUI

Marco Piccitto, McKinsey Global Institute

15:20-16:20

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Erik Jones

BERTELSMANN STIFTUNG

Technological capabilities for the twin transition: Linking European regions for cohesion

European regions require technological capabilities to green and digitize their economies in line with the twin transition. These capabilities, however, are not spread evenly across European regions. Making matters worse, relevant innovation activities are highly concentrated in more developed regions, while inter-regional collaboration is both rare and tends to occur domestically. As a result, much of Europe's technology potential remains untapped and opportunities for greater cohesion unrealized. In our new study “Technological capabilities and the twin transition in Europe”, we map opportunities for regional collaboration to build the technologies of the future. We discuss our findings with a particular focus on what policymakers can do to realize this potential, whilst at the same time working towards greater European cohesion.

Moderator:

Alessandro Merli, Associate Fellow, SAIS Europe

Speakers:

Pierre-Alexandre Balland, Professor, Utrecht University

Katharina Gnath, Senior Project Manager, Europe's Future, Bertelsmann Stiftung
Anna Sobczak, Policy Coordinator (DG ENER), European Commission, and EU
Fellow, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, EUI

16:30-17:30

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Ruth Rubio-
Marín

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS**Equality and its Pivotal Role in European Democracies- 2023 and beyond**

Never have equality and non-discrimination played a more crucial role in the defence of European democracies. This panel will examine upcoming progress and possible struggles around these issues. At the EU level the Equality acquis is gaining momentum, as exemplified by the appointment of the first ever Commissioner for equality and anti-racism Coordinator, and by the adoption of the Gender Equality and LGBTIQ Equality Strategies in 2020. Simultaneously, however, we note that progress and backlash on equality continue to coexist in a growing number of Member States. Women's rights and the rights of LGBTI+ communities, in particular, are under constant attack--often used as a means to mobilize support for marginalization and exclusion via hate speech. In Poland, for example, women's sexual and reproductive rights continue to be contested; and clashes continue with so-called LGBTI-free municipalities. In Germany, the struggle around the 'self-identification act' and for the acceptance of the trans community is ongoing. But impacted communities around Europe have taken to the streets and to social media to stand up for their rights and advance them. Our discussion will explore how to engage with legal frameworks and social dynamics to ensure that democracy in Europe remains based on human rights and fundamental freedoms. But, beyond legal frameworks, we will also examine how perception functions in embedding rights politically and socially. Our discussion will therefore also cover what researchers have learned about attitudes in the EU, especially those at the intersection of misogyny and support for extreme parties.

Moderator: **Goran Buldioski**, Director of Programs, Open Society Foundations

Speakers:

Adam Bodnar, Dean of the Law Faculty, SWPS University in Warsaw, former
Commissioner for Human Rights of Poland

Katalin Cseh, Member, European Parliament

Matthew MacWilliams, Global public opinion lead, Foundation International
Communications Hub (Comms Hub)

Manisha Mehta, Director, Women's Rights Program, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

17:40-18:40

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Andrea Renda

PAGOPA**EU digital identity: how many bricks in the wallet?**

Opening: **Lorena Boix Alonso**, Director for Digital Society, Trust and
Cybersecurity, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Last December, the Council of the EU reached a common position on the proposed framework for a European digital identity (eID). The aim is to ensure universal access to secure and trustworthy eID and authentication by means of a personal digital wallet. By paving the way for a fully harmonised digital identity, the framework is triggering ground-breaking developments. Two consortia, EWC and NOBID, have been selected and funded to carry out large-scale pilots focused on facilitating travel, payments and trust services across borders. More solutions are being developed by the private sector, including large European banks. However, several policy questions remain unaddressed. How to ensure full security and interoperability of solutions across the EU, as well as users' control over their data? This session takes stock of recent developments and discusses how to best implement the Digital Wallet, in line with European values.

Moderator: **Florian Eder**, Managing Editor, Politico Europe

Co-moderator: **Lucía Bosoer**, Project Associate, European University Institute

Introduction:

Alessio Butti, Undersecretary to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy

Fabrizio Gentili, Head of EU Affairs, HIT Foundation
Alessandro Moricca, CEO, PagoPA S.p.A.

Speakers:

Christine Balian, Director of the France Connect Programme, Chief of Mission IDNUM, French Digital Agency DINUM

Anna Eriksson, Head of department, Swedish Digital Agency

Eva Maydell, Member, European Parliament

Karen Melchior, Member, European Parliament

Friday, 5 May 2023 | Sala Lorenzo il Magnifico, Palazzo Vecchio

10:00 - 11:00

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Marco Incerti

Countering foreign interference: Challenges and opportunities for the EU

Opening: **Nad'a Kovalčíková**, Senior Analyst and CFI project Co-Director, EUISS

Foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) aimed at the European Union and its member states has been a growing threat for years, but Russia's open aggression and growing tensions with China have made it more salient than ever before. FIMI-incidents vary in terms of actors involved, the means and tools they employ to achieve their objectives, and their targets. No less diffuse are the counter-initiatives that have emerged. A multitude of institutions, (non-)governmental organizations, and diverse branches of academia have all been combatting foreign interference, but not necessarily in a cohesive and complementary manner. The panel explores new ways in which these various efforts aimed at countering foreign interference (CFI) can be brought together, in order to develop sustainable initiatives to foster societal resilience and to strengthen democracy and security, all whilst respecting European values, human rights and legal principles.

Moderator: **Giovanni Faleg**, Senior Analyst and CFI project Co-Director, EUISS

Co-moderator: **Rolf Nijmeijer**, Researcher, European University Institute

Speakers:

Nika Aleksejeva, Resident fellow, Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab

Lutz Guellner, Head of Division, Strategic Communication, Task Forces and Information Analysis, European External Action Service

Teija Tiilikainen, Director, European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats

13:50-14:50

European Media and Information Fund

EUI Scientific
Coordinator:
Andrea Renda

Europe's digital future: the opportunities and pitfalls of platform self-regulation of harmful content and disinformation

Opening: **Madeleine De Cock Buning**, Chair of the Advisory Board, EDMO

2022 was a year in which significant steps were taken towards establishing comprehensive European legislative and regulatory frameworks for media and technology. The European Media Freedom Act, the Digital Services Act and the Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation have mechanisms and a scope that are unique in the world. At the same time foreign interference, and disinformation in particular, have emerged as structural threats on media platforms. This panel us this framework of hostile interference to assess recent efforts within the EU to regulate harmful content online. The Acts provide for the creation of various coordinators, boards and monitoring bodies that can ensure compliance with their guidelines and regulations, but civil society and media platforms themselves have important roles to play too. The success of the Code of Practice in particular, will depend on actions taken by the media platforms that pledged to support it. How will these platforms empower users, researchers and the fact-checking community? Will (more) data be made available to researchers? Will platforms act strongly against those abuse these

platforms for their own gain, and will decisive action be taken to demonetize disinformation? The experts on the panel will debate these issues to gain a better understanding of what works in combatting harmful and disruptive (online) content, what can be improved in the EU's battle against disinformation, and in what direction the EU is headed on these matters.

Moderator: **Paolo Cesarini**, EMIF Management Committee

Co-Moderator: **Ani Hovhannisyan**, Policy Leader Fellow, EUI

Speakers:

Luca Bertuzzi, Technology Editor, EURACTIV

Alex Engler, Fellow, Brookings Institution

Ľuboš Kukliš, DSA Enforcement team member, European Commission

Sandra Wachter, Professor, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford

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