

## Press Release

Vienna/Alpbach, August 25, 2023

### SAFEGUARDING EUROPEAN VALUES AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

Interdisciplinary experts from Europe discuss the topic of digital sovereignty in Alpbach at the invitation of the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and the Gaia-X Hub Austria.

As part of the "European Forum Alpbach", the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, Center for Digital Safety & Security, together with the Gaia-X Hub Austria, is organizing a three-day workshop from Friday, August 25, 2023 to Sunday, August 27, 2023 on the topic of.

"Digital Sovereignty. An interdisciplinary working group of top-class experts was invited to analyze today's global data world in an open-ended discourse with regard to self-determination based on European values, while at the same time releasing the best possible innovation potential in the digital space, and to develop recommendations for the future design of the data economy in Europe.

The heterogeneous composition of the workshop with experts and stakeholders from a wide range of disciplines such as IT, data science, economics, law and humanities as well as with policy makers from various international organizations such as OSCE, UNESCO or the think tank GLOBSEC with a strong commitment to a distinctive, ethically based digital society in Europe, is intended to enable an interweaving of perspectives in this three-day discourse, with which all aspects of the topic can be illuminated.

#### Europe's role in the new digital world order

Europe must play a creative role in the global digital world order through strategic planning by policymakers, as well as through legislative and regulatory controls for the expansion of digital sovereignty, while avoiding external influences such as political agitation, disinformation and even manipulation by closed data oligopolies. Especially in the area of technical implementations of modern digital technologies and software platforms, Europe's assumption of a decisive position is an important prerequisite for being able to develop the European data economy in a people-centric and positive manner.

"An interdisciplinary discourse is a fundamental prerequisite to ensure a sustainable positive development of the European data-driven society in Europe. I am pleased that we can contribute to the European and Austrian data strategy with this discussion between top-class experts and with the resulting valuable suggestions and recommendations. Only if we put the European values of people at the center of this process can Europe become a global leader.

Helmut Leopold, PhD, Head of the Center for Digital Safety & Security at AIT and Chair of the Gaia-X Hub Austria.

Further information: <https://www.gaia-x.at/efa23/>

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