Kick-off event

REDemocracIA
Iberoamerican Network for Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence

October 4, 2022 – 16.00-17.00h (CET)
School of Transnational Governance · EUI
Online

Organized by the Chair 'Artificial Intelligence and Democracy', STG (EUI)

This kick-off event launches a Network that seeks to promote the advanced study of the challenges and opportunities that artificial intelligence (AI) presents for democracy and its possible reconfiguration in the 21st century. The Ibero-American Network for Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence (REDemocracIA) aims to serve as a meeting point between governments, regulators, academics, judges, civil society, companies, and other actors to share experiences and policies on AI and digitalisation, helping to identify critical problems and enabling the transatlantic exchange of different digitalisation strategies carried out in Ibero-American countries.

The main objective of this first meeting is to present the new network and to make a Call for Expressions of Interest from entities and individuals interested in joining this initiative.

What is REDemocracIA about?

REDemocracIA is the answer to the growing digitization and hyper-connectivity of our contemporary society. The rise of digitalisation requires a re-examination of the state-citizen relationship and a necessary reflection on what democracy means and how it operates in the age of AI. REDemocracIA will function as a platform to promote advanced knowledge and facilitate the necessary dialogue on digitalisation and artificial intelligence policies and their impact on democracy.

To date, numerous countries are developing and/or materializing their strategies on AI, as well as creating and implementing the legal frameworks that can ensure a responsible, ethical and transparent development and use of the technology. Taking advantage of the opportunities offered by digitalisation and the use of AI requires an examination of the existing and emerging synergies between different relevant actors for a better design of public policies, channelling public-private cooperation, and opening of academic debates beyond universities. In this context, setting-up a network to establish common objectives and principles based on an open and global dialogue is essential in public policy decision-making process(es) and for the choice of a governance model for a technology that knows no borders and that increasingly encompasses more areas of civil society.

REDemocracIA will function as a dynamic forum for the debate on theoretical issues, as well as for the identification and development of good practices for AI governance in Ibero-American countries. This Network will provide a space for dialogue and the dissemination of initiatives and policies in the field of AI, promoting exchange, international cooperation and the promotion of new interdisciplinary lines of research. REDemocracIA will also work as a meeting point between researchers and experts from any discipline (philosophy, sociology, political science, law, information sciences, communication, computing, etc.), interested in how the use and development of AI impact, both positively and negatively, our understanding of democracy. Therefore, this call is addressed to researchers, institutions, governments, and any other type of organization, whether state or not, NGOs, companies and individuals interested in AI and its impact on democracy.

This initiative is part of the Chair Artificial Intelligence and Democracy of the School of Transnational Governance (European University Institute of Florence, EUI) and Globernance (Institute of Democratic Governance), and launched at the initiative of the Secretary of State for Digitization and Artificial Intelligence of the Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation and the EUI.