

Webinar

Kick-off of the Digital Trade Integration project

1 July 2021

Hybrid: Online and Refectory - Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Scientific Organiser:

Martina F. Ferracane | European University Institute

Bernard Hoekman | European University Institute

Introduction

The Digital Trade Integration project aims to launch a network on digital trade which will work on the creation of (1) a dataset of digital trade restrictions and (2) an index of digital trade integration. Digital trade has risen to the top of the international policy agenda given its sharp increase over the past decade and the sensitivity arising from related issues such as privacy, cybersecurity, freedom of expression, censorship, hate speech and disinformation. Countries are still struggling to find the balance between economic and non-economic objectives, and this project aims to shed light over this discussion. It will leverage the cross-disciplinary nature of CIVICA, bringing together scholars engaged in research on legal, technical and human rights topics.

Open Dataset on Digital Trade Restrictions: Relevant information on digital trade policies will be compiled into an open dataset. It will inform the design, implementation, and reform of state intervention, permit analysis of cross-border effects, and support international cooperation efforts. The areas covered span tariffs and trade defense measures, taxation and subsidies, public procurement, digital infrastructure, and regulatory policies towards foreign investment, IPRs, competition policy, business mobility, domestic and cross-border data flow policies, intermediate liability, content access, quantitative restrictions, technical standards, and online sales. Some of these policy instruments are subject to WTO disciplines; several are being discussed in WTO Joint Statement Initiatives on domestic services regulation and E-commerce.

Digital Trade Integration Index (DTII): Using the collected data, an index will be developed to allow for comparisons across countries and assessment of changes in policy over time. The index to be useful for empirical analysis of the effects of (changes in) digital policies.

The partner universities for the project are:

European University Institute, Bocconi University, Hertie School and London School of Economics.

Trade & Investment in Services (TIISA) Network

This workshop, co-organised with the Jean Monnet Network: Trade & Investment in Services Associates (TIISA), aims to be a first brainstorming event for members and partners of the Digital Trade Integration project. In addition to presenting the project, the workshop will discuss a selected group of policies that are on the table in the WTO Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) negotiations on electronic commerce. These policies are potentially restrictive for digital trade and include regimes for intermediary liability, restrictions on data flows and data processing, requirements to provide access to source code and other IPR-related policies, and requirements for online payments.

For each topic, there will be 5 minutes for presentations and 15 minutes for open discussion. Based on the discussion, a policy-brief will be prepared highlighting the main issues that deserve further discussion as part of the CIVICA project.

Draft Programme

1 July

10.00 - 10.15 *Introduction to the CIVICA project*

10.15 - 10.30 *Presentation of CIVICA members and partners*

Jane Brockman | University of Adelaide

Yann Duval | United Nations – Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP)

10.30 - 10.50 *Content access restrictions*

Speaker:

Daniëlle Flonk | Hertie School

Discussants:

Andrea Calderaro | European University Institute

Luca Stefan | European University Institute

10.50 - 10.55 Short break

10.55 - 11.15 *Restrictions on data flows*

Speaker:

Martina F. Ferracane | European University Institute

Discussants:

William Drake | Senior Fellow at the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information at the Columbia Business School

Maarja Saluste | European University Institute

11.15 - 11.35 *IPR-related policies with a look at AI*

Speaker:

Laurent Manderieux | Bocconi University

Discussant:

Nicolas Petit | European University Institute

11.35 - 11.40 Short break

- 11.40 - 12.00 *Regimes for intermediary liability*
- Speaker:
Agnieszka Jablonowska | European University Institute
- Discussant:
Laurent Manderieux | Bocconi University
- 12.00 - 12.20 *Requirements for online payments*
- Deborah Elms** | Asian Trade Center
- 12.20 - 12.25 Final remarks

Speakers

Jane Brockman	University of Adelaide
Andrea Calderaro	European University Institute
William Drake	Columbia Institute for Tele-Information at the Columbia Business School
Deborah Elms	Asian Trade Center
Martina F. Ferracane	European University Institute
Daniëlle Flonk	Hertie School
Agnieszka Jablonowska	European University Institute
Laurent Manderieux	Bocconi University
Nicolas Petit	European University Institute
Maarja Saluste	European University Institute
Luca Stefan	European University Institute