



THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON INFORMATION AND DEMOCRACY

CONTACT US

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informationdemocracy.org

Hosted by the

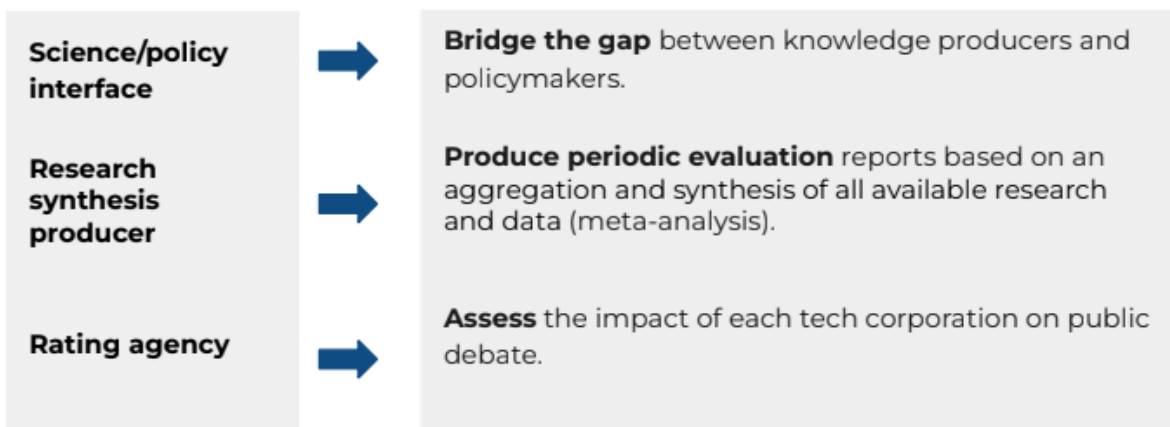
**Forum on
Information
& Democracy**

MISSION

Provide governments, policymakers, regulatory bodies, NGOs, public information bodies, tech corporations, and society as a whole with a periodic evaluation of the information space.

The Observatory's ambition is to help stimulate meaningful dialogue, inform evidence-based policy decisions, and support innovative research in the field of the digital information space and democracy.

To achieve this, the Observatory will aim at ensuring three different functions.



OBSERVATORY REPORTS

The Observatory aggregates and synthesises existing research and available data through a robust, inclusive meta-analysis process. Currently in the form of biennial reports, it provides civil society leaders, researchers, academics and, importantly, policymakers with a periodic global assessment of the information and communication space and its impact on democracy.



Why do we need an **Observatory of the information space** ?



Christophe Deloire,
chair of the Forum on
Information and
Democracy.

*"To curb the logics destroying democracies, **decisions must be based on evaluations** that are **clear, relevant** and **shared**. It will be the International Observatory's role to provide them. We need a process similar to the one for global warming, with regular summits, the equivalent of the IPCC, and undertakings by governments."*



The Observatory's work will inform the international community's efforts to foster the adoption of **effective and proportionate regulatory and non-regulatory measures** for the protection of human rights – including the right to reliable information – and democracy in the digital space.

September 2022

PREFIGURATION PHASE



Prefiguration Group report

Defines the **objectives**, working **methodology** and **means** of the Observatory.



THE OBSERVATORY PREFIGURATION GROUP

- The creation of the International Observatory on Information and Democracy was announced at the Summit on Information and Democracy in New York on 24 September.
- The Prefiguration Group was in charge of defining the Observatory's **objectives, methodology** and **resources**.
- Co-chaired by **Shoshana Zuboff**, author of The Age of Surveillance Capitalism and Harvard Business School Professor emeritus and former OECD secretary-general **Angel Gurría**.

May 2023



The global call of 100 researchers to contribute to the International Observatory on Information and Democracy

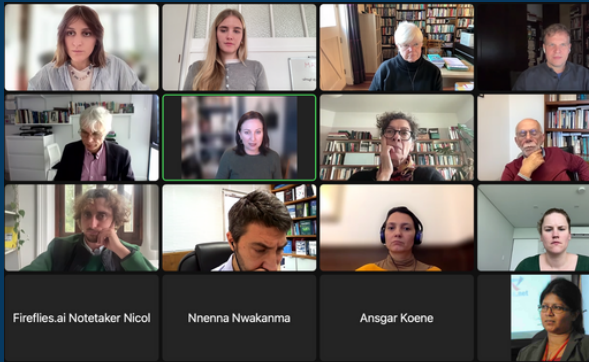
Launch of a call for nomination to join the Steering Committee with over 100 applications from 38 countries



THE STEERING COMMITTEE

of the International Observatory on Information and Democracy

Q **Supervises** the **production** of reports



LUCA BELLI
Law



GUSTAVO CARDOSO
Media Sociology



NIVA ELKIN-KOREN
Law



HELANI GALPAYA
Communication



TIMOTHY GARTON ASH
History



FRANCES HAUGEN
Data science



JEANETTE HOFMANN
Public policy



JHALAK KAKKAR
Law



ANSGAR KOENE
Public policy



ADMIRE MARE
Media



INENNA NWAKANMA
Public policy



PIER LUIGI PARCU
Economy



COURTNEY RADTSCH
Media



JEREMY RIFKIN
Economy



GHASSAN SALAMÉ
Philosophy



SONJA SOLOMUN
Media



NICOL TURNER LEE
Public policy



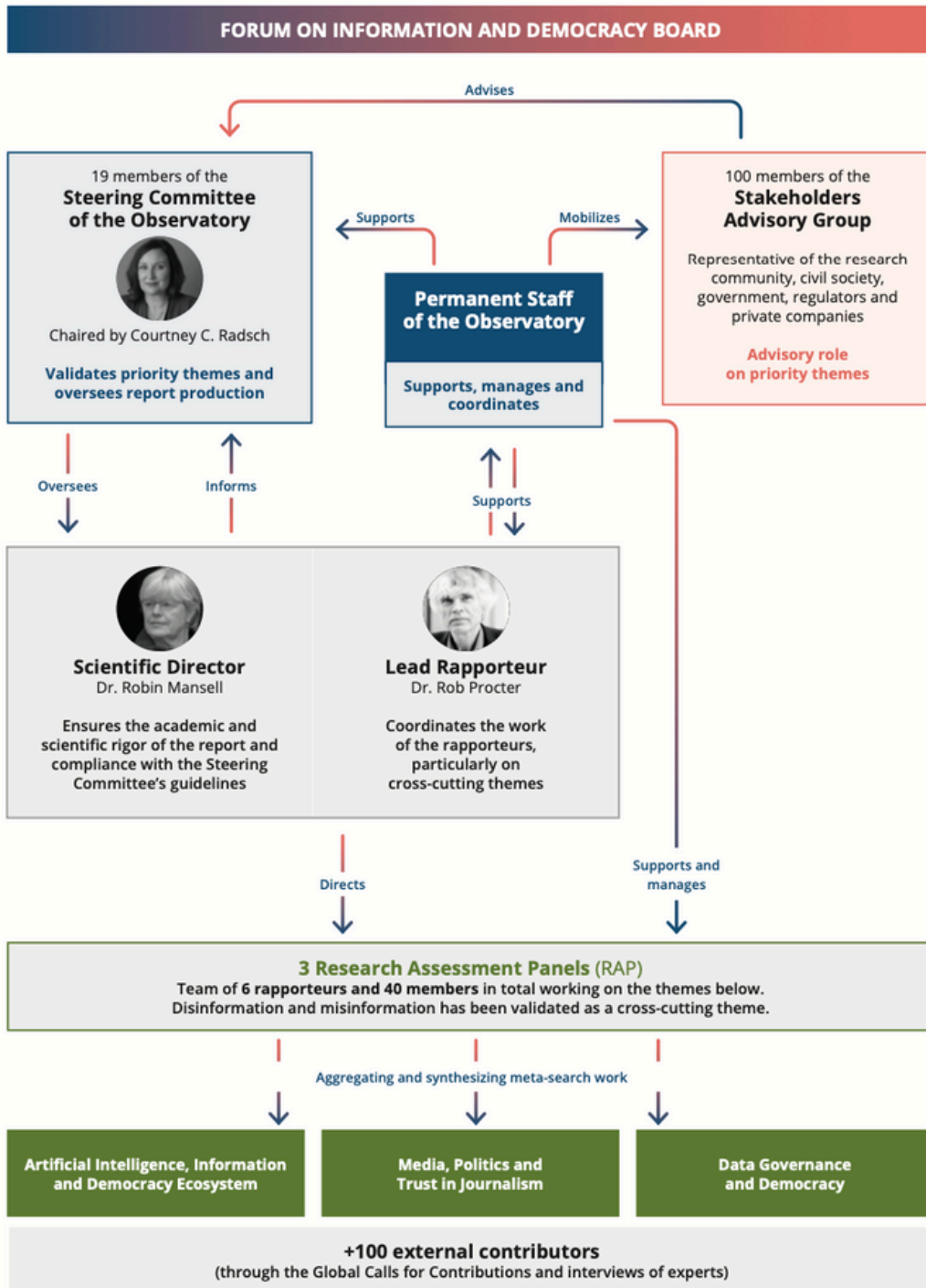
STEFAN VERHULST
Engineering



NATALIA ANDREA ZUAZO
Communication

Responsibilities include:

- validating **priority themes** and **methodology**;
- determining the **scope** and **structure** of reports;
- monitoring the **drafting process**;
- proofreading and validation of the Research Assessment panels' **analyses**;
- and the **validation** of the final reports.



With a **governance structure led by renowned international experts** from the scientific community and civil society, yet conducting direct consultations with private and public officials, the Observatory contributes to creating shared knowledge benchmarks to help realign regulatory policy to ensure technology serves the public interest.

Priority themes

for the inaugural Observatory report

- **Artificial Intelligence, Information and Democracy ecosystems**
- **Media, Politics and Trust**
- **Data Governance and Democracy**
- **Mis- and disinformation (cross-cutting theme)**

🕒 The first work cycle will be completed in **December 2024.**

RESEARCH PROGRESS FALL 2023



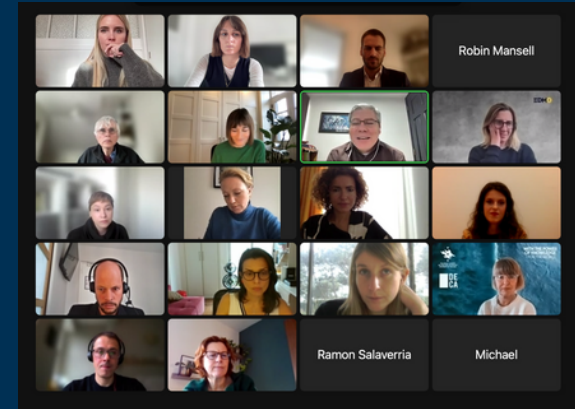
12 October

Official Launch of the 1st research cycle at the Internet Governance Forum 2023 in Kyoto (+80 participants onsite/online)



13-15 November 2023

Setting up the three **Research Assessment Panels** in charge of aggregating and synthesising state-of-the-art research on the priority topics of the report



26 October

Seminar co-organised with Africтивistes - discussion on how Senegalese researchers and civil society can contribute to the effort of the Observatory

10 November
3rd Annual Summit on Information and Democracy
52 States of the Partnership reaffirmed support for the Observatory's work



21 November

Opening of a **global call for contributions** to gather international research on the four priority themes of its inaugural report:



THE OBSERVATORY IN **NUMBERS**

Over **2900**

Sources **collected**
and **analyzed** to
date

→ In total: over
1,000 are cited in
the **1st draft**.

60

People directly involved in the process of
creating an IPCC-like report

Over **30** Nationalities represented



Two Global calls for Contributions including one
Global Majority focused

A network of **over 250** researchers from
CSOs/Academia

52 Signatory States of the **Partnership on Information and
Democracy** who support the work of the Observatory

WHAT'S NEXT?

The first work cycle will be completed in **December 2024**.
The official **launch of the report** is planned for the
beginning of **2025**.

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IRIS BOYER
HEAD OF THE OBSERVATORY

*“We are a **civil society-led** initiative bringing together **academia, policy leaders, civil society** organizations, and **companies** to the table to advance knowledge on the information ecosystem’s impact on democracy.*

*Our ambition is to help **stimulate meaningful dialogue**, inform **evidence-based policy decisions**, and support **innovative research** in the field of the digital information space and democracy.”*

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HOW TO **SUPPORT** THE OBSERVATORY

You can express your support by sharing research contributions on the four priority topics of the inaugural report (AI, media, Data Governance, Mis- disinformation) to our email
observatory@informationdemocracy.org

You can contact us to take part in the Observatory’s Stakeholders Advisory Group (multisectorial consultative body).

You can get in touch to hear more about our ambitious roadmap and fundraising needs.

Follow us!



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Contact us



observatory@informationdemocracy.org



*“The Observatory provides a **framework for understanding** the complex relationship between **digital innovation and information ecosystems**, considering their advantages and challenges, to help **inform policy** and ensure technology serves the **public interest**.”*

PROF. ROBIN MANSELL
SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR OF THE
OBSERVATORY

