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'I am grateful to the president and co-founder of the Lisbon Council, Paul Hofheinz, for the invitation and faith in digital Ukraine. Today Ukraine is ready to share expertise with European partners, to develop innovative solutions and achieve top results – jointly.'

— **Mykhailo Fedorov**, vice prime minister and minister of digital transformation, Ukraine, at The 2023 Digital Government Summit

## Ukraine in Europe: The Lisbon Council Pushes Forward on All Fronts

As war in Ukraine entered its second year, the Lisbon Council stepped up its support for and collaboration with the 43 million-citizen country. Ukraine – and the Ukrainian Government – were invited to join high-level consortia as full partners, bringing their astonishing expertise in digital government and smart cities into the heart of Europe. President Paul Hofheinz visited Kyiv and Bucha, where he met with senior officials including Vice Prime Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, Bucha Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk, UNIT.City Innovation Park Partner Kirill Bondar and many others. While in Kyiv, President Hofheinz signed a memorandum of understanding with Vice Prime Minister Fedorov, inviting Ukraine to participate in the **Govtech4all** consortium and to showcase *Diia*, the "state in a smartphone," at **The 2023 Digital Government Summit** (see page 2 for more). Elsewhere, Kyiv CIO Oleg Polovynko keynoted **The 2023**



UNIT.City Innovation Park in Kyiv

**UserCentriCities Summit**, where he presented Kyiv Digital – and accepted **The 2023 Digital Resilience Award** from consortium partners. **Read "What the West Must See, What the World Must Never Forget,"** Paul Hofheinz's sizzling contribution to **The Forum**, the Lisbon Council's platform for new ideas and forward thinking.



Paul Hofheinz and Mykhailo Fedorov  
Sign MoU in Kyiv



Mass Grave Memorial



Paul Hofheinz and Anatoliy  
Fedoruk, Mayor of Bucha



Phosphorous Bombs Destroyed  
an Apartment Building in Irpin

‘The idea is to create a new kind of figure, an “inventor” of apps, someone who will talk with small- and medium-sized enterprises, governments, public entities and apply digital transformation in practice. You must follow a *glocal* approach. Follow the global trends while working on a local scale to have impact.’

— **Giorgio Ventre**, scientific director of Apple Developer Academy and professor of computer networks at University of Naples Federico II

## Digital Skills: **Diving Deep**



Giorgio Ventre



Eva Maydell



Georgi Dimitrov



Michelle O'Neill

As the European *Year of Skills* kicks off a 12-month campaign of research, advocacy and outreach, the Lisbon Council convened **The 2023 Digital Skills Summit**, a deep dive on Europe's emerging skills strategy. Giorgio Ventre,

scientific director of the Apple Developer Academy in Naples, visited Brussels to explore the policies, achievements and learnings of the Apple Developer Academy, an innovative approach to skills diffusion, founded in 2016 with University of Naples Federico II.



Other speakers included Georgi Dimitrov, head of unit digital education, directorate-general for education, youth, sports and culture, European Commission; Eva Maydell, member of the European Parliament and founder of Education Bulgaria 2030; Tommaso Dalla Vecchia, development and advocacy manager at European Schoolnet and Michelle O'Neill, head of European Union government affairs, Apple. **Watch The 2023 Skills Summit on the Lisbon Council's YouTube Channel.**

## New Horizons: **Driving Debate with Research and Analysis**

The work programme and budget of the Lisbon Council have doubled since 2019 thanks to the hard work of the team and the immense success the think tank has had in competitive research tenders and grants. The Lisbon Council now leads or participates in more than 20 international research initiatives, which explore such pressing policy areas as data governance, air quality and STEM education.

Among the flagship projects are **Ethical Technology Adoption in Public Administration Services (ETAPAS)**, an eight-country, 14-partner consortium where the Lisbon Council leads a work package on governance and risk; **Surrounded by Science**, a seven-partner coalition that evaluates out-of-the-school-system science projects for effectiveness and impact; and **SALL: Schools as Living Labs**, a 10-member consortium which is writing a roadmap covering new ways to teach science and deepen local-community roots in the education system. The projects are co-financed by the European Union.





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# The 2023 Digital Government Summit



Johannes Hahn



Luukas K. Ilves



Idoia Ortiz De Artiñano Goñi



Frank Leyman

Top digital government experts from 14 countries joined **The 2023 Digital Government Summit** in Brussels, including Ukraine Vice Prime Minister Mykhailo Fedorov, who left the barricaded government-office compound in Kyiv to meet leading members of the **Govtech4all** consortium, which Ukraine recently joined, and deliver his first in-person Brussels keynote. In the presence of the vice prime minister, the 21 coalition partners endorsed the Govtech4all consortium agreement on stage – using the Diia app’s unique “blink” signature. Also keynoting was Johannes Hahn, commissioner for budget and administration, who

presented the *Interoperable Europe Act*, a recent European Commission proposal. Other speakers included Mark Boris Andrižanič, former minister of digital transformation (Slovenia); Luukas K. Ilves, undersecretary for digital transformation and government CIO (Estonia); Frank Leyman, international relations director at FPS Policy and Support BOSE (Belgium) and Idoia Ortiz de Artiñano Goñi, CEO and founder of Gobe (Spain). [Watch Mykhailo Fedorov’s Sizzling Keynote](#). Watch [High-Level Panel with Andrižanič, Ilves, Leyman and Goñi](#). [Watch Summary and Key Highlights Video](#).

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## Energy and Sustainability: A Campaign on Many Fronts



Diya Wynn



Vincent Berruto

The Lisbon Council continues to develop expertise and build communities around the ongoing energy transition – and the role that digital technology and startups might play in it. The Lisbon Council teamed up with Amazon Web Services (AWS) for the **High-Level Summit on Powering the Twin Transition**. Eva Maydell and Jörgen Warborn, members of the European Parliament and founding members of the European People’s Party (EPP) Group’s AI for Sustainability Initiative; Vincent Berruto, head of unit for innovation, research, digitalisation and competitiveness, directorate-general for energy, European Commission; and Diya Wynn, senior practice manager for responsible AI,

Machine Learning Solutions Lab, AWS, led an all-star discussion with top NGOs, leading startups and policymakers from 14 countries. Elsewhere, the Lisbon Council continued collaborating to create innovation-oriented energy data spaces through **European Distributed Data Infrastructure for Energy (EDDIE)**, an 18-member consortium building an open-data framework for use and re-use of energy data to encourage more efficient consumption. The EDDIE project is co-financed by the European Union.



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‘Why re-invent the wheel? We talk a lot about sharing and reuse. The easy part is to share what governments have done, make code available. The hard part is to overcome the “not-invented-here” syndrome, [get the bureaucracy] to implement something that someone else created.’

— **Luukas K. Ilves**, government CIO and undersecretary for digital transformation, Estonia, speaking at The 2023 Digital Government Summit

‘If the plan goes through, the burden will fall directly on consumers in the form of fewer choices, less innovation, lower quality of services and ultimately higher prices for goods they consume liberally at competitive prices today.’

— President **Paul Hofheinz** and Senior Researcher **Konstantinos Komaitis** in “Thierry Breton’s Retro Vision: Taking Europe ‘Back to the Future,’” a policy blog on The Forum

## Better Regulation and European Competitiveness



Bart Groothuis



Konstantinos Masselos



Stéphanie Jamet



Igor Perisic

The Lisbon Council convened a vast array of roundtables and working lunches, using its unique platform to bring important communities together for complex, evidence-based discussions. Bart Groothuis, member of the European Parliament (Netherlands-Renew Europe) and former head of the Netherlands Ministry of Defence’s Cyber Security Bureau, led the **High-Level Roundtable on Cybersecurity in the Age of the Cloud**, a close look at the emerging European cloud-certification standards. Konstantinos Masselos, chair of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), joined the **VIP Working Lunch on Europe’s Telco Challenge: Is a Traffic Tax the Answer or the Problem?** Stéphanie Jamet, senior economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), launched *Starting Strong VII: Empowering Young Children in the Digital Age*, a new OECD study, at the **High-Level Roundtable on Education and Digital Skills**. Igor

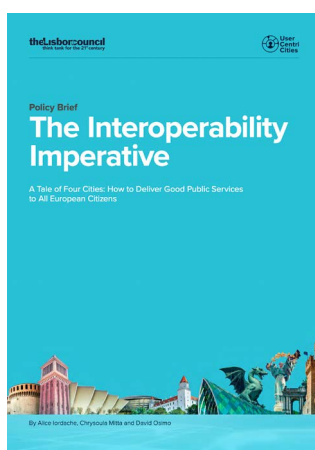
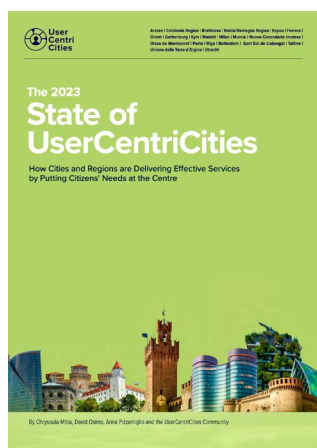
Perisic, vice-president of engineering and general manager at Google, led the **High-Level Working Lunch on the Challenge of Online Political Advertising: How Responsible Data Stewardship Can Encourage Healthy Public Debate and Protect Election Integrity**.



## Thought Leadership and Cutting-Edge Debate

Research sits at the heart of the Lisbon Council’s work, helping to animate and feed complex, evidence-based discussions in Brussels and beyond. Lisbon Council

researchers delivered several thought leading papers in recent discussions. **The Interoperability Imperative: A Tale of Four Cities** took a critical look at the challenge – and opportunity – for raising cross-border access to government services among European cities, regions and countries.



**The 2023 State of UserCentriCities: How Cities and Regions are Delivering Effective Services by Putting Citizens’ Needs at the Centre** delivered a cornucopia of up-to-date adoption metrics on leading-edge digital services – and an overview of best practice among 21 leading European cities. Elsewhere, President Paul Hofheinz and Senior Researcher Konstantinos Komaitis weighed in on **Thierry Breton’s Retro Vision: Taking Europe ‘Back to the Future,’** a scorching contribution to **The Forum**, the Lisbon Council’s platform for discussion and debate.



# Europe's Choice 2024: Democracy and Election Integrity



Asha Allen



Daniel Braun



Fanny Hidvégi



Leslie Miller



David Osimo

Few issues matter more than the quality of Europe's public debate and the integrity of the upcoming European election. And few of Europe's value-based commitments will be more severely tested in coming weeks and months. With that in mind, the Lisbon Council convened the **High-Level Working Lunch on Free Speech, Democracy and the Transparency and Targeting of Political Advertising**. Among those taking part were Asha Allen, advocacy director for Europe, Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT); Daniel Braun, head of cabinet of Věra Jourová, vice-president for values and transparency, European

Commission; Fanny Hidvégi, director Europe policy and advocacy, Access Now; Leslie Miller, vice-president of public affairs and government policy, YouTube. Later, David Osimo, director of research at the Lisbon Council, weighed in with **Defending Democracy: A Matter of Checks and Balances**, a scorching blog on the crucial need to protect, defend and maintain democratic discourse from the unprecedented challenge of inauthentic speech. *Defending Democracy* and other recent commentary can be found in **The Forum**, the Lisbon Council's burning platform for discussion and debate.

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## The Lisbon Council Turns Twenty: Expansion and Growth



Konstantinos Komaitis



Besiana Balla



Stella Meyer



Alessandro Paciaroni



Anna Pizzamiglio

The Lisbon Council celebrates an important milestone this year: the organisation turns 20. Founded in October 2003 by Paul Hofheinz, Tjark de Lange and Ann Mettler, the association quickly grew from a handful of dedicated advocates committed to "making Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world" to the powerhouse research centre and platform for cutting-edge debate that you see today, playing a crucial role in the development and evolution of European policy along the way. The future has never seemed more rosy. Today, more than 6000 people take part in events, collaborative research projects and constructive exchange each year. We pride ourselves not on the number of fancy comments we make but on the amount of original, actionable and innovative ideas we create. That

focus – on building community, on applying intellect to Europe's great challenges, on evidence-based policymaking, on imaginative problem solving as an antidote to cynicism and a catalyst to action – those are the Lisbon Council's DNA. And we mean it when we say, "the best is yet to come."

Meanwhile, the Lisbon Council team is adding talent and expertise. New team members include Senior Researcher Konstantinos Komaitis, a talented commentator and community organiser who will lead the Lisbon Council's work on Internet governance and platform regulation. Besiana Balla joins the digital team as associate director. Also joining are Research Associates Alex Borg, Stella Meyer, Alessandro Paciaroni and Anna Pizzamiglio.

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'We need ambition – and action as well. This means we have to tackle the digital divide. And actionable goals are urgently needed to tackle the divide between the haves and have nots across Europe.'

— Eva Maydell, member of the European Parliament (EPP-Bulgaria), at The 2023 Digital Skills Summit

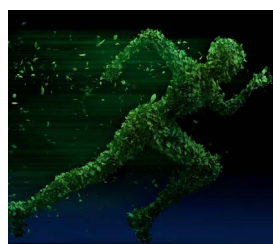
‘That focus on building community, on applying intellect to Europe’s great challenges, on evidence-based policymaking, on imaginative problem solving as an antidote to cynicism and a catalyst to action – those are the Lisbon Council’s DNA. And we mean it when we say, “the best is yet to come.”’

— Paul Hofheinz, president and co-founder, speaking on the Lisbon Council’s 20-Year Anniversary

## Coming Up

### What’s Next for the European Union

President Paul Hofheinz looks ahead at the coming challenges for the European Commission, particularly in the digital sphere. The policy brief will draw on a series of Lisbon Council workshops to be held throughout the year with an eye towards delivering an evidence-based, oven-ready roadmap for the incoming European Commission.



### Green, Digital and Competitive: An SME Agenda for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

As European SMEs gather in Bilbao for the SME Assembly, the Lisbon Council gears up for a new edition of **Green, Digital and Competitive: An SME Agenda for the 21st Century**. The policy brief will look more deeply at the factors and forces driving SME competitiveness in the European Union – and update country performance across key indicators. A companion policy brief will examine the policy challenges.

### New Horizons

The Lisbon Council announces a new range of international consortia, all led by the Lisbon Council and co-financed by the European Union. **Bridging the Gaps in Evidence, Regulation and Impact of Anticorruption Policies (BRIDGE GAP)**, a 15-member consortium from 11 countries, will produce a **Transparency Index** to inform policy and encourage effective action. Key partners include Center for the Study of Democracy, Transparency International and more. The Lisbon Council will also lead **System Integration of Transformative Technical and Nature-Based Solutions to Improve Climate Neutrality of European Cities and Regions and Tackle Climate Change (URBREATH)**, a 37-partner consortium to develop a new strategy for re-greening cities, and **An Open and Co-Created Metaverse for Europe (OPENVERSE)**, a 12-partner, three-year project to scope, analyse and develop open standards for the metaverse.



### Sustainable Computing and Data Centres: A New Approach

In cooperation with NVIDIA Corporation, the world’s leading manufacturer of artificial intelligence-ready processing chips, the Lisbon Council launches a research project to develop new metrics and accurate modelling of energy consumption in the high-end computing sector. Researchers will dive deep on crucial questions, including energy-efficiency optimisation and raising Europe’s performance in this area.

[www.lisboncouncil.net](http://www.lisboncouncil.net)

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