### CHANSE Mid-Term Conference: *Building Networks*

#### 17 SEPTEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17:30–19:00</td>
<td>Visit to an open-air museum</td>
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#### 18 SEPTEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:30–09:45</td>
<td>Conference opening</td>
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| 09:45–10:30 | Keynote speech  
*Digital Age with more Human Touch: co-creation and progress of the business ecosystems through EDIHs* |
| 10:30–11:00 | Break                                                               |
| 11:00–12:30 | PARALLEL SESSIONS:  
*Exploring cross-cutting transformations themes*  
I) Imagining and new imaginaries  
II) Citizen-state relationships  
III) Emotional, mental, and physical wellbeing |
| 12:30–13:30 | Lunch                                                               |
| 13:30–15:00 | PARALLEL SESSIONS:  
*Digital transformations research in action*  
I) Methodological challenges in working across qualitative and quantitative data  
II) Ethics in data, research, professional and community practice  
III) Navigating stakeholder needs and interests |
| 15:00–15:30 | Coffee break                                                        |
| 15:30–17:00 | PLENARY SESSION:  
*Doing ‘digital good’?: Intent, practice, and reception in digital transformations research* |
| 17:00 – 17:15 | PRESENTATION:  
*European Partnership on Social Transformations and Resilience* |
| 17:15 – 18:30 | Evening reception  
drinks & bites                                                      |
19 SEPTEMBER

09:00–11:30  Time scheduled for individual CHANSE Project Meetings*
*At the request of projects, this time is reserved for teams to meet on their own terms. Projects may wish to reserve space at a nearby café or restaurant or a meeting place at their accommodations. Very limited (shared) space is available at the conference venue in three plenary rooms.

11:30–12:30  Lunch

12:30–14:00  PARALLEL SESSIONS:
Re-imagining the futures of digital transformations
I) For Early Career Researchers and Cooperation Partners: Re-imagining or exploring the futures of digital transformation
II) For all other attendees: Forging collaborations across CHANSE

14:00–14:30  Coffee break

14:30–16:00  PLENARY SESSION:
Influencing policy: Successes, challenges, methods, and communities of practice

16:00–16:15  Closing remarks

SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS:

Keynote speech:
Digital Age with more Human Touch: co-creation and progress of the business ecosystems through EDIHs

Amalia Georgescu
Is known as an expert in communication, entrepreneurial skills, project management and event management. One of her values is continuous learning, thus she specialized herself in economics, marketing and project management studies and holds a doctorate in engineering and management, on the subject of associative business structures in the digital age (Digital Innovation Hubs), at the "Gheorghe Asachi" Technical University, Iași, Romania. Amalia Georgescu has also multiple roles that enrich her personal and professional background, as the First VP of the patronage of the Organization of Women Entrepreneurs in UGIR, trainer at the Swedish-Romanian "Focus Business School" and since 2023, she is the Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Iași and the coordinator of the Business Networking Club Afaceri.ro Iași.
Parallel Thematic Sessions – Wednesday 18 September 2024 – *morning*

**Imagining and new imaginaries**
The shape, texture, and rhythms of our imaginings sculpt our experiences of lived reality. How are these imaginings changing as digital methods, tools and systems change? How have individual imaginaries fractured and splintered - or grown together - in the plurality of online worlds? In what ways do our digital cultures manufacture and cultivate new shared imaginaries, and what threats / opportunities may they pose? How are methods for imagining being used to navigate our present and our potential futures?

- TIMED [session chair]
- ReDigIm
- REIMAGINE ADM
- AUTO-WELF

**Citizen-state relationships**
In a digital world of accelerated communication and globalised networks, what does it mean to be a citizen, and how do we define states? What new tensions are emerging between citizens and states, and what are disappearing? In landscapes of increasingly fractious and fragmented nationalisms, communities, and collective political identities, how do we navigate and shape productive state-citizen relationships?

- PSM-AP [session chair]
- JustHEAT
- DIGISCREENS
- SoLiXG

**Emotional, mental and physical wellbeing**
In what ways do digital technologies threaten or enhance our wellbeing? How do we navigate the potentials of the digital in a public discourse that often falls into flat dichotomies of digital = dangerous vs. digital = salvation? How do we define and regulate ‘wellbeing’ in the context of digital and online spaces – and vice versa (i.e., how do we define and regulate digital and online spaces in the context of ‘wellbeing’)? What does wellbeing actually mean in different digitally-mediated environments?

- PlatFAMs [session chair]
- DiDe
- MEDEP
- GIG-OSH
- HuLog
Parallel Thematic Sessions – Wednesday 18 September 2024 – afternoon

**Methodological challenges in working across qualitative and quantitative data**
How do we evaluate and compare qualitative and quantitative data, particularly in the context of varied interdisciplinary research practices? What does methodological ‘rigour’ look like, and how are different teams (within and across projects and fields) navigating their complex datasets in ways that may be interpretable and reusable by others? What resources, infrastructures and people are supporting or hindering high-quality mixed quantitative and qualitative data practices in your projects and across the social sciences and humanities in Europe?
- QSHIFT [session chair]
- DigiPatch
- REDACT
- DigiFREN

**Ethics in data, research, professional and community practice**
How do we ensure the highest ethical standards are maintained across projects when interacting with communities and with other partners who hold variable degrees of institutional power (or no power at all)? What does ethical practice look like with different individuals and communities that may be structurally disadvantaged? How do we reconcile overarching project ambitions to 'make the world a better place' with ground-level responsibilities to people and communities?
- ReCoVirA [session chair]
- DIGITISLAM
- TETrARCHs
- TRAVIS

**Navigating stakeholder needs and interests**
When research relies on a complex network of community and industry partnerships, how do we meet the needs of these stakeholders and, at once, comply with the expectations of different research, funding and policy cultures? When faced with difficult choices, what novel solutions are being trialed to balance the priorities and requirements of different groups who may have contrasting expectations? Where do we see equity and social justice regularly being foregrounded, and who/what do we turn to in order to avoid failing those individuals who are often let down by wider systems?
- DIGeMERGE [session chair]
- GEIO
- SMARTUP
- PolarVis
- REMEDIS
**Plenary 1:**

*Doing ‘digital good’?: Intent, practice, and reception in digital transformations research*

We start from the baseline that all research funded by major bodies today must demonstrate its potential to achieve meaningful and positive impacts for society – that is to say – ‘good’. But what do we mean by this? Who defines ‘good’, and who must it be ‘good’ for? How do we ensure these aims remain priorities when faced with the often complex and pressurized reality of undertaking research? Finally, how do we reconcile the ethics and ambitions of our work to achieve ‘good’ when we do not know what afterlife our research will take on once it is published and disseminated, how it will be used, and for what purposes?

**Panelists:**

**Radu Gheorghiu**
President of Institutul de Prospectiva and long-term collaborator with the Romanian R&I funding agency, is a foresight practitioner, trainer, and theorist committed to nurturing future-oriented communities. In almost two decades of practice, he has coordinated large-scale foresight consultations in Romania and at the European level, innovated foresight methods (e.g., Dynamic Argumentative Delphi), and supported the development of several online platforms. He is currently coordinating the project Eye of Europe, which aims to consolidate the foresight community and its interconnection with research and innovation.

**Reema Patel**
Leads Elgon Social Research, a research agency providing bespoke insight, advice and support. Reema’s work has a focus on technology, data and AI ethics, public engagement and participation, and equity. She co-founded the Ada Lovelace Institute where she worked on public engagement and participation between 2014 and 2022. Reema is also a member of the Bank of England’s Central Bank Digital Currency Engagement Forum and is Senior Fellow of the Finance Innovation Lab. Reema leads the policy and public engagement work of the Digital Good Network.

**Kirsikka Vaajakallio**
is a trailblazer in service design, specializing in customer and employee experience. With 20 years of expertise in integrating design into organizational culture and business development, Kirsikka has made a significant impact in both the public and private sectors across Finland and globally. She has collaborated with global organizations such as Finnair, Kone, Tesco, Danske Bank and the Bank of Ireland, spanning multiple industries. Kirsikka excels in transforming organizational culture and practices towards customer-centricity. Her professional skills encompass attentive customer listening, employee engagement, creative problem-solving, and leading customer-focused change.
Networking 1:
Re-imagining the futures of digital transformations (for CHANSE Early Career Researchers, Cooperation Partners and Invited Guests)
CHANSE Transformations represents an unusual and complex programme linking hundreds of researchers and practitioners across 24 countries around ‘digital transformations’ in the humanities and social sciences. Anticipating and navigating future digital transformations demands dexterity and nuance in methods, skillsets, interdisciplinary working habits, language use, partnerships, values and outcomes for people and planet, among many other concerns. As we approach the final year of CHANSE, we seek to bring together key CHANSE affiliates to explore what levers, systems, and infrastructures must be set in place to support future digital transformational research and innovation.

Facilitated by an international futurist, this session – specifically for CHANSE’s Early Career Researchers and Cooperation Partners – offers an opportunity for a diverse range of CHANSE contributors to meet one another, think across projects about what the current state of digital transformations in Europe looks like, and – using foresight methodologies – imagine different futures for digital policy and practice.

Facilitator:

Fisayo Oyewale
Is a futurist and independent consultant specializing in food systems, technology, and youth engagement. She collaborates with individuals, nonprofits, and multilateral organizations to drive positive change. As a Youth Foresight Senior Fellow and Community Consultant at UNICEF, Fisayo contributes to meaningful engagement, process design, support of 12 youth foresight fellows globally, and co-design foresight workshops. Fisayo’s work exemplifies her passion for contributing to better futures through strategic thinking, community engagement, and impactful projects.
You can learn more about Fisayo’s work here: https://fisayooyewale.com/.

Networking 2:
Forging collaborations across CHANSE (for all other attendees)
This self-led session will be an opportunity to make cross-project and cross-stakeholder links and to plan potential collaborations, especially after having discussed topics of common concern during the parallel sessions the day before. On registration, participants should identify approx. 5 projects they would like to connect with, and topics they might be interested to discuss together. Participants will then be grouped and given space to explore ideas with one another. These might include follow-up bids, cross-project knowledge exchange (KE) opportunities, or current needs and expectations for research, social change, and KE. It is also a chance for projects to identify mutual desires for the final year of CHANSE which could be fed into CHANSE KEF initiatives such as workshops, round tables, and publications.
Plenary 2:

Influencing policy: Successes, challenges, methods and communities of practice

People in the research ecosystem (researchers, funders, industry brokers, etc.) facilitate research typically because they are passionate about finding solutions to problems and sharing knowledge with the wider world. Policymakers have the task of codifying research outcomes into realistic and practical initiatives for legislation and systemic change. In this session, we explore successes, challenges, methods and communities of practice, drawing on external policy maker – and policy influencer – perspectives and the CHANSE projects themselves. The provocations we will consider are central to envisaging and facilitating healthy and effective collaborations:

- What is policy and what can it be, e.g. in the context of law, ethics and social strategies affected by the digital?
- Who collaborates – and how – in exchanging ideas and providing solutions for needs, e.g. through Humanities and Social Sciences research and innovation?
- How are different policy actors navigating difficult contexts, e.g. regarding technological infrastructures and their (ab)uses for democratic decision-making?
- Ultimately, what does ‘influencing policy’ mean – and how can it change the world?

Panelists:

Bianca Dragomir
Vice-president of Institutul de Prospectiva, has been working in foresight for the last ten years, especially within the field of Research and Innovation. She’s been involved in designing and implementing complex foresight projects, with components such as horizon scanning, scenario and vision building, large online expert consultations, speculative design, citizen participation, futures education. She is currently contributing to maturing a Europe-wide foresight community hosted by futures4europe.eu. Her practice of foresight - particularly its functions of imagining and deliberating potential futures - capitalises on her extensive experience in academic and public debate.

Helen Eenmaa
Holds an LL.M. and a J.S.D. from Yale Law School. After graduating from Yale, she joined the Law School of the University of Tartu in Estonia and created the Information Technology Law Research and Study Programme. She is an Associate Professor of Governance and Legal Policy and the President of European Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS) and a board member of SAPEA. Helen Eenmaa specialises in legal and moral philosophy, private law theory, law and economics, technology law, and science and technology studies. She has worked as a lawyer at the European Parliament and the UN Security Council and published in international law.

Pete Whitehead
Is a Senior Policy Manager within the Education Practice at Public First. He joined Public First from the charity Magic Breakfast, where he worked on school breakfast provision and child food insecurity in the UK. He previously worked at the think tank Theos, and in youth democratic engagement.