

BRIDGE

*Bilateral Research Initiative on Data
and the Governance of Emerging Technologies*

STAGE I · ŁÓDŹ · DIAGNOSIS — STATUS QUO AND QUESTIONS

Inaugural Symposium of the BRIDGE Initiative

*European Regulatory Context and Competitiveness —
Data Governance and AI in Transition*

DATE

29–30 April 2026

Wednesday & Thursday

VENUE

Faculty of Law and Administration

University of Łódź

About BRIDGE

A bilateral Polish–German academic initiative examining European data and AI governance, co-led by the University of Łódź and the Technical University of Munich.

The BRIDGE initiative brings together researchers, regulators, practitioners, and industry representatives from Poland and Germany to address the structural tensions that define European regulation of data and artificial intelligence: between fundamental rights and innovation, between regulation and competitiveness, between trust and technological scalability. Our working hypothesis is that many of the challenges commonly attributed to European regulation are in fact challenges of application and implementation, and that the perspective of enforcement and judicial practice is analytically essential to the debate.

The inaugural symposium in Łódź opens the diagnostic phase. Over two days, five panels map the status quo of the European regulatory framework — the Draghi and Letta diagnoses, the Digital Omnibus package, the relationship between GDPR and AI in practice, the implementation of the AI Act, and the shape of enforcement across Member States. A second symposium, to follow in Munich approximately six months later, will carry the conversation into the solutions phase.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DAY 1 — WEDNESDAY, 29 APRIL 2026

European Regulatory Context and Competitiveness

Opening session, Panels 1–2, plenary discussion & networking

DAY 2 — THURSDAY, 30 APRIL 2026

Data Governance, AI Systemic Risk, Enforcement

Panels 3–5, closing remarks

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

WORKING LANGUAGE

English

No simultaneous interpretation will be provided

FORMAT

In-person symposium

Selected panellists will join remotely via video link

CO-CHAIRS

Dr. hab. Dominik Lubasz, Prof. UŁ

University of Łódź

Prof. Dr. Boris Paal

Technical University of Munich

CO-ORGANISERS

University of Łódź

Institute of Comparative and Interdisciplinary Legal Research, Faculty of Law and Administration

Technical University of Munich

Chair of Law and Regulation of the Digital Transformation, TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology

Day I

European Regulatory Context & Competitiveness

WEDNESDAY

29 April 2026 · 13:30–
19:00

13:30 – 14:00

Registration & Welcome Coffee

OPENING SESSION

14:00 – 14:30

Welcome & Introduction to the BRIDGE Initiative

Presentation of the symposium objectives and methodology by **Dr. hab. Dominik Lubasz, Prof. UŁ** and **Prof. Dr. Boris Paal**.

PANEL I

14:30 – 16:00

European Innovation Competitiveness under Data and AI Regulation

MODERATION *Prof. Dr. Boris Paal*

KEY TOPICS

- ◆ The Draghi and Letta diagnosis — what do the reports say?
- ◆ The "middle technology trap" — is regulation the cause?
- ◆ Polish and German perspectives on innovation barriers

PANELLISTS

**Dr. Simon Assion** ONLINE*Fieldfisher***Dr. Stefan Brink***wida — Wissenschaftliches Institut für die Digitalisierung der Arbeitswelt***Katarzyna Prusak-Górniak***Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Government perspective***Mirosław Wróblewski***President of the Personal Data Protection Office
Polish supervisory authority perspective***Marietta Gieron***The Kościuszko Institute
NGO, cybersecurity perspective*

16:00 – 16:45

Lunch Break

PANEL II

16:45 – 18:00

The Digital Omnibus: Simplification, Deregulation or Better Regulation?

MODERATION *Dr. hab. Dominik Lubasz, Prof. UŁ*

KEY TOPICS

- ◆ Genesis of the package — Implementation Dialogue
- ◆ Key changes to the GDPR and the AI Act

PANELLISTS

**Prof. Dr. Boris Paal***Technical University of Munich***Prof. Dr. Tabea Bauermeister***University of Regensburg***Dr. hab. Grzegorz Sibiga, Prof. INP PAN***Institute of Legal Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences**GDPR expert, numerous publications on regulatory changes***Dr. hab. Wojciech Wiewiórowski, Prof. UG****ONLINE***University of Gdańsk · European Data Protection Supervisor**Highest European authority on GDPR and AI***Prof. Dr. Monika Namysłowska***University of Łódź**Academic and consumer protection perspective*

18:00 – 18:15

Coffee Break
**PLENARY DISCUSSION
& NETWORKING**

18:15 – 19:00

Open Discussion on Day 1 Themes

An open-floor discussion summarising the diagnostic findings of Day 1 and preparing the ground for the Day 2 panels on data governance, AI systemic risk, and enforcement.

Day II

Data Governance, AI & Enforcement

THURSDAY

30 April 2026 · 09:00–14:00

Block II DATA GOVERNANCE & FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

09:00 – 10:30

PANEL III

09:00 – 10:30

GDPR in the Age of AI: Foundation, Friction or Enabler?

MODERATION *Prof. Dr. Boris Paal*

KEY TOPICS

- ◆ Definition of personal data — narrowing or clarification?
- ◆ Art. 9 — Special Categories of Data: clarification and exemptions?
- ◆ Art. 88c — sectoral basis for AI
- ◆ Input vs. output data in AI systems

PANELLISTS

**Michael Will***Bavarian Data Protection Authority (BayLDA)
DPA perspective***Kai Zenner** **ONLINE***Digital Policy Advisor for MEP Axel Voss, European Parliament***Tomasz Grzegory***Google
Global tech company perspective***Izabela Kowalczyk-Pakuła***Bird & Bird
AI governance experience***Dr. Karolina Mojzesowicz***European Commission
EU policy perspective, regulatory framework insight*

10:30 – 10:45

Coffee Break

Block III AI GOVERNANCE & SYSTEMIC RISK

10:45 – 12:15

PANEL IV

10:45 – 12:15


The AI Act in Practice: Implementation Challenges and Regulatory Coherence


MODERATION *Dr. hab. Dominik Lubasz, Prof. UŁ***KEY TOPICS**

- ◆ State of AI Act implementation
- ◆ Digital Omnibus on AI proposals
- ◆ AI Act — GDPR relationship: complementarity or conflict?


PANELLISTS

 **Prof. Dr. Patrick Glauner** **ONLINE**
University of Deggen Dorf
Academic perspective

 **Dr. Till Klein** **ONLINE**
Applied AI
Applied AI deployment perspective

 **Sophie Sohm**
Meta
Global tech company perspective

 **Dr. Damian Flisak**
Lubasz i Wspólnicy · of counsel
IP and AI law practitioner perspective

 **Marcin Olender**
AI Chamber
Polish AI sector perspective

 **Filip Konopczyński**
NASK — Research & Academic Computer Network
Research institution perspective

12:15 – 12:30

Short Break

Block IV ENFORCEMENT & JUDICIAL PRACTICE

12:30 – 14:00

PANEL V

12:30 – 14:00

Enforcement and Judicial Practice: Lessons from Implementation

MODERATION *Prof. Dr. Boris Paal***KEY TOPICS**

- ◆ CJEU jurisprudence on GDPR and its impact on AI development
- ◆ National court decisions — divergence or convergence?
- ◆ DPA enforcement practices — fines, guidelines, soft law
- ◆ Cross-border enforcement challenges
- ◆ The role of precedent in shaping data governance

PANELLISTS**Frederick Richter***Stiftung Datenschutz — Data Protection Foundation***Dr. Winfried Veil***Federal Ministry of the Interior***Dr. Stefan Brink***wida — Wissenschaftliches Institut für die Digitalisierung der Arbeitswelt***Piotr Drobek***Personal Data Protection Office (UODO) · Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (UKSW)**Polish supervisory authority and academic perspective***Urszula Góral***Meta**Global tech company perspective***Sławomir Dziurzyński***Allegro**Polish tech company perspective, DPO experience***CLOSING REMARKS**

14:00

Towards Munich — Carrying the Diagnosis into the Solutions Phase

Concluding reflections and preview of Stage II by Prof. Dr. Boris Paal and Dr. hab. Dominik Lubasz, Prof. UŁ.

STAGE II · SOLUTIONS PHASE



SAVE THE DATE

Munich

BRIDGE Symposium II



8–9 October 2026

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH

The Solutions Phase will translate the Łódź diagnosis into concrete policy and regulatory proposals for European data and AI governance.
