

## Information Sheet on the Futures of Digital Democracy Survey (FDDS)

The Futures of Digital Democracy Survey (FDDS) is a two round survey conducted by a research team at Paderborn University (Media Systems and Media Organisation Research Group) as part of the European Commission funded INNOVADE project (<https://innovade-democracy.eu/>) coordinated by Beyond the Horizon.

Your participation is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw your participation at any time without suffering any negative consequences. Before you decide whether or not to take part, you should understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information. If you have questions after participating in the research session, please contact the Paderborn University research team (Media Systems and Media Organisation Research Group), whose information can be found at the end of this information sheet.

### The project

The project is funded by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe funding programme, grant agreement number 101178306. The project began on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and will come to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027.

To advance digital democracy, INNOVADE a) builds an interdisciplinary knowledge base on digital democracy to improve knowledge on the current state of the art, future trends, and emerging next practices; b) helps decisionmakers better understand frameworks, structures and settings required for inclusive digital governance; c) provides a toolkit that allows governments to make informed decisions on how to advance the transition to optimum digital democracies; d) builds a "Digital Democracy App" in conformance with the principles of data protection, data security, and ethics; and finally e) develops a conceptual framework, platform and the educational materials needed for democratizing access to digital tools for citizens across different backgrounds.

The INNOVADE consortium consists of the following partner organisations:

1. Beyond the Horizon International Strategic Studies Group (BtH), Belgium
2. Universitaet Paderborn (UPB), Germany
3. Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KUL), Belgium
4. Deutsches Forschungszentrum Fur Kunstliche Intelligenz GMBH (DFKI), Germany

5. Fundacion Cibervoluntarios (CIB), Spain
6. Trust-It Services SRL (Trust), Italy
7. Hybrid Core (HC), Belgium
8. ICT Legal Consulting - Studio Legale Associato Balboni Bolognini & Partners (ICTLC), Italy
9. Stad Geel (SG), Belgium
10. Ayuntamiento De San Martín De La Vega (SMV), Spain
11. Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

### INNOVADE's Goals

The project's co-operation with public administrations, citizens, civil society, and the private sector will ensure dialogue and foster impact. Over the longer term, the project will contribute to strengthening democratic governance, improving the accountability, transparency, efficacy, and trustworthiness of governments, and expanding active and inclusive citizenship.

One aspect of INNOVADE's research is the Futures of Digital Democracy Survey (FDDS), an expert survey where we ask digital technology and digital society experts to assess the potential futures of digital democracy and digital society.

FDDS uses a self-hosted instance of the free and open-source survey software LimeSurvey (<https://www.limesurvey.org/>). The questionnaire itself is anonymous: your answers are stored without your name, email address or IP address and are not linked to your user account. Data is stored on servers located in Germany (EU/EEA).

### Open text fields and personal data

While answering the questions in our survey, the use of open text fields does not require the provision of personal data. You are therefore invited not to include any information that allows, directly or indirectly, the identification of themselves or of other individuals (such as names, contact details, or contextual elements that make a person identifiable).

Opinions and views, including political opinions, may be freely expressed, provided that they are shared in an anonymous and non-identifiable form, without reference to specific persons.

If, notwithstanding the above, personal data are voluntarily included in open text fields, such data are not intentionally sought nor required by the data controller and are not processed for any specific purpose by the data controller. By submitting such information, you acknowledge that the inclusion of personal data in open text fields occurs on your own initiative and outside the intended scope of the processing.

Where the data subject includes personal data relating to third parties, you will act as an independent data controller with respect to such data and assume all related obligations and responsibilities under applicable data protection laws, including the duty to ensure the existence of a valid legal basis for the processing and to indemnify the data controller against any claims or liabilities arising therefrom.

### What will I be asked to do?

First, you will be asked to agree to the survey's terms.

Second, you will be asked to answer a series of survey questions

### Where will the survey take place?

The research will take place online.

### What will you use my information for?

You will be asked to answer survey questions about how you assess the status and potential future of digital democracy and digital society.

Your inputted information will be used by the project team to assess how experts assess the future of digital democracy and digital society.

The data you input may be used in anonymous form for INNOVADE's purposes, including in articles for peer-reviewed journals and magazines, for presentations at conferences and workshops, or to promote the INNOVADE project.

All answers provided will be published in anonymous form as an open data set that will be made available publicly using the Zenodo research repository (<https://zenodo.org/>).

Before any responses are shared or further analysed for academic or research purposes, any personal data inadvertently included will be identified and redacted by authorised personnel, in accordance with appropriate technical and organisational measures.

What are the potential risks of participating in research?

There are no major foreseeable risks.

Are there any costs?

There are no costs for using the survey.

Will I be paid?

We cannot pay you for participating in this survey.

**Processing of personal data**

The FDDS survey is anonymous. It does not collect your name, email address or IP address.

**Data Protection Officer (DPO)**

The DPO of our institution is:

Janusz Michla  
Department Technician  
Paderborn University  
Department of Media Studies  
Warburger Straße 100  
D-33098 Paderborn  
Germany  
[janusz.michla@uni-paderborn.de](mailto:janusz.michla@uni-paderborn.de)

Please contact him/her for further questions.

**Data Controller**

The Data Controller for the personal data processed in connection with your LimeSurvey user account and the operation of the DDS platform is:

Paderborn University  
Department of Media Studies

Media Systems and Media Organisation Research Group  
Prof Christian Fuchs  
Warburger Straße 100  
D-33098 Paderborn  
Germany  
[christian.fuchs@uni-paderborn.de](mailto:christian.fuchs@uni-paderborn.de)

Please contact him/her for further questions about the use of your personal data in this project. Contact details for the Data Protection Officer are provided in the section above.

### **Your rights and confidentiality**

Under the GDPR you have the right to:

- request access to your personal data and obtain a copy;
- request rectification of inaccurate data and, in some cases, erasure of your data;
- request restriction of processing in certain situations;
- lodge a complaint with a data protection supervisory authority in the EU.

To exercise these rights, you can contact the Paderborn University research team (Media Systems and Media Organisation Research Group), the Data Controller (Prof Christian Fuchs) or the DPO using the contact details provided.

All personal data will be handled confidentially and stored on password-protected computers and secure servers within the EU. Your questionnaire answers will be analysed in anonymised form only. You will not be identified in any report or publication of this study or its results.

You have a right to lodge a complaint, to do so please contact the researcher or project coordinator (details below); they will pass your complaint onto an independent panel.

### **Right to withdraw**

You may withdraw your participation from this project at any time without giving a reason by ending the survey before its completion. This is done by closing the browser window that runs the survey. We will not ask for reasons why you decided to stop the survey.

### **Research with participants in non-EU countries**

If you are from outside of the EU/EEA, your registration data (see "Processing of data") will nevertheless be stored on servers in Germany (EU/EEA), under the same safeguards and access restrictions described above.

### **Keeping in touch with the project**

As INNOVADE is a research and innovation action, it is essential to share the high-quality results of the project with stakeholders who are likely to benefit from it. You can choose to be kept informed about the project's progress. You can subscribe to the project's newsletter here: <https://innovade-democracy.eu/newsletter-issues>

### **More information?**

For more information on the project, please contact:

Digital Democracy Score:

Paderborn University  
Department of Media Studies  
Media Systems and Media Organisation Research Group  
Prof Dr Christian Fuchs  
Warburger Straße 100  
D-33098 Paderborn  
Germany  
[christian.fuchs@uni-paderborn.de](mailto:christian.fuchs@uni-paderborn.de)

### **INNOVADE Project Coordinator:**

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Organisation: Beyond the Horizon  
E-mail: [fatih.yilmaz@behorizon.org](mailto:fatih.yilmaz@behorizon.org)