

THE RACE FOR SMART INFRASTRUCTURE ECONOMIC AND GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE PANDEMIC AND THE ENERGY CRISIS

17 October 2022 | Online conference, 10.30 CEST

On the occasion of the publication of the ISPI-McKinsey annual report on “Digitalization for Sustainable Infrastructure: the Race Ahead” (working language: English)

Digitalization is at the core of the social and economic investments aimed to recover the European economy in the aftermath of the pandemic. Alongside sustainability, digitalization is considered one of the two main pillars to ensure Europe a smooth and successful transition into new forms of production, consumption and mobility. But Europe is not alone: the major countries in the world are heavily investing in digital infrastructure and elaborating national strategies to include digital investments in every domain of society and economy. Digital and technology are more and more becoming protagonists of a global race, where competition among the main countries is rising constantly. Digitalization is key to improving the overall competitiveness of our economies and has a great impact on other types of infrastructure such as roads, railways, air and maritime transport. Moreover, digitalization is crucial to reducing the carbon footprint of our economy and increasing the environmental performance of physical infrastructure. However, a great amount of investment is required to ensure a rapid digitalization of the economy and a digital infrastructure gap still persists in developing countries but also in some parts of Southern and Eastern Europe. Public finances cannot cope alone with this challenge, especially at a time when a lot of public financial resources are allocated to address the energy crisis and the economic fallout from the war in Ukraine. The private sector is hence called to share the burden and invest in digitalization and digital infrastructure, with the crucial support of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

Agenda

- **Opening**
 - **Paolo Magri**, Executive Vice President, ISPI
 - **Gelsomina Vigliotti**, Vice-President, EIB

MODERATOR: Federico Leoni, Journalist, Sky TG24

- **Competition or cooperation? The digital plans of Europe, US and China**
 - **Pierpaolo Settembri**, Head of Unit for Coordination and Planning, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, European Commission
 - **Maaïke Okano-Heijmans**, Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute
 - **Julian Mueller-Kaler**, Resident Senior Fellow, GeoTech Center, Atlantic Council

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- **The impact of digitalization on infrastructure**
 - **Nicola Sandri**, Senior Partner and Global Leader of Transport Infrastructure, McKinsey
 - **Alberto Mazzola**, Executive Director, CER - Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies
 - **Massimo Sonogo**, Chief Strategy & Corporate Development Officer, Atlantia
 - **Andrew Watt**, Senior Advisor, Eurocontrol
 - **Carlo Secchi**, Head, Centre on Infrastructure and Vice President, ISPI; European Coordinator for the Atlantic Corridor, European Commission

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