

La sovranità digitale europea: programma, velleitarismo o riconoscimento di debolezza?

Paolo Passaglia

Università di Pisa

Declaration for European Digital Sovereignty

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At the heart of European digital policy lies digital sovereignty. It refers to the EU and its Member States' ability to act autonomously and to freely choose their own solutions, while reaping the benefits of collaboration with global partners, when possible. This involves setting and enforcing our own legal framework in accordance with internationally accepted principles. To achieve this, Europe needs to create conditions that strengthen economic security, competitiveness, resilience, and trust, and which preserve European democratic values in the digital world. Digital sovereignty does not mean isolation or protectionism; it means ensuring that Europe can act independently and in a self-determined manner based on international law, its own laws, values, and security interests, while thriving to international cooperation with its partners that share European values and principles.

Our common understanding of digital sovereignty is the ability of Member States to be able to regulate their digital infrastructure, data and technologies. It encompasses the ability of individuals, businesses and institutions in Europe to act independently in the digital world, allowing for autonomous decisions about the use, governance, and development of digital systems without undue reliance on external actors in order to protect our European democracies and our European values.

We, the signatories, declare our shared ambition to strengthen Europe's digital sovereignty in an open manner* as a cornerstone of our economic resilience, social prosperity, competitiveness and security.

To operationalise this shared ambition, the **following principles** set out the **common orientations and priorities** that will guide our collaborative action. They provide a framework for strengthening Europe's capacity to act in the digital sphere, while ensuring consistency, balance, and openness in our approach.

- Efforts should build on **existing initiatives and frameworks**, avoiding unnecessary duplication and ensuring consistent implementation across the Union. At the same time, **clarity in terminology is required**: digital sovereignty should not be misinterpreted as protectionism, but rather as a common European approach that strengthens our ability to act freely while remaining in collaboration with global markets and partners. Europe should therefore remain open to global partners that share the same values as the EU and to collaborative efforts to continue benefiting from global scientific and technological cooperation, which in turn facilitates greater access to more diverse talents, perspectives, and innovations.

Since public funding has its limits, it is important to reduce barriers for private investments in European digital technology and explore what other actions are needed to unlock sufficient capital. It can also include targeted use of public procurement that would be relevant to support the demand for and market share of EU suppliers, thereby reducing strategic dependencies.

- **Open-source solutions** can play an important role enhancing digital sovereignty, provided they meet high cybersecurity standards and are complemented by reliable proprietary technologies where appropriate.
- **Creating European common assets** in artificial intelligence, data, cloud capacities and space infrastructure, including through public-private partnerships and open-source solutions (without prejudging the negotiations on the MFF), will strengthen Europe's ability to protect data and secure critical infrastructures.

reduce fragmentation, and provide a transparent mechanism for collective decision-making. In addition, governance should be inclusive and employ a multi-stakeholder approach, involving public and private actors as well as civil society and academia, to ensure legitimacy, expertise and broad support.

- Ultimately, digital sovereignty depends not only on technologies and infrastructures, but also on people. A focus on investments in **education and research, digital skills, and digital literacy** is indispensable to empower European labor force, citizens, public administrations, and businesses. Without these, even the best frameworks will remain fragile. Joint learning, pooling of expertise, strategies to attract foreign talents and the sharing of best practices among Member States will further strengthen Europe's collective capacity to act. Media- and information literacy is essential to raise knowledge about the digital landscape and to learn how to navigate safely and must be fostered through lifelong learning to ensure our resilience and competitiveness.

«Sovranità digitale»

- *«la maîtrise de notre présent et de notre destin tels qu'ils se manifestent et s'orientent par l'usage des technologies et des réseaux informatiques» (P. Bellanger, 2011)*
- Tuttavia: non è il sovrano ad auto-fondare il proprio potere, ma sono piuttosto i progressi tecnologici a tracciare il quadro entro il quale il «sovrano» può muoversi
- Funzione «rassicurante» (disegnare un consolidamento di poteri che si percepiscono come minacciati)

Declaration for European Digital Sovereignty

- «[...] the EU and its Member States' ability to act **autonomously** and to freely choose their own solutions, while reaping the benefits of collaboration with global partners, **when possible**»
- «[The digital sovereignty] involves setting and enforcing our own legal framework **in accordance with internationally accepted principles**»
- «Digital sovereignty [...] means ensuring that Europe can act independently and in a self-determined manner **based on international law, its own laws, values, and security interests**»

Segue

- «[The digital sovereignty] encompasses the ability of individuals, businesses and institutions in Europe to act independently in the digital world, allowing for autonomous decisions about the use, governance, and development of digital systems ***without undue reliance on external actors*** in order to protect our European democracies and our European values»

Dupliche riconoscimento

- Dimensione relativa dell'Unione europea rispetto alle dinamiche globali
- Difficoltà che l'Unione europea incontra nel fronteggiare e, *a fortiori*, nell'orientare tali dinamiche

Sovranità digitale e geopolitica

- Andare oltre la [*Declaration of the Independence of Cyberspace*](#) (J.P. Barlow, 1996)
- Ecosistema digitale:
 - ~ Fenomeni globali
 - ~ Ma anche fenomeni che hanno una portata geografica più circoscritta
 - ~ ... fino a essere eminentemente locali

Transnazionalità

- **Caratteristica fondamentale dell'ecosistema digitale:**
 - ~ non la dimensione globale
 - ~ bensì quella transnazionale
 - non tutti i fenomeni transnazionali sono globali
 - e non tutti i fenomeni transnazionali sono uniformemente distribuiti
- **Per molti fenomeni transnazionali, l'Europa può vantare una posizione favorevole (mentre per altri è lungi dall'averne una qualche centralità)**

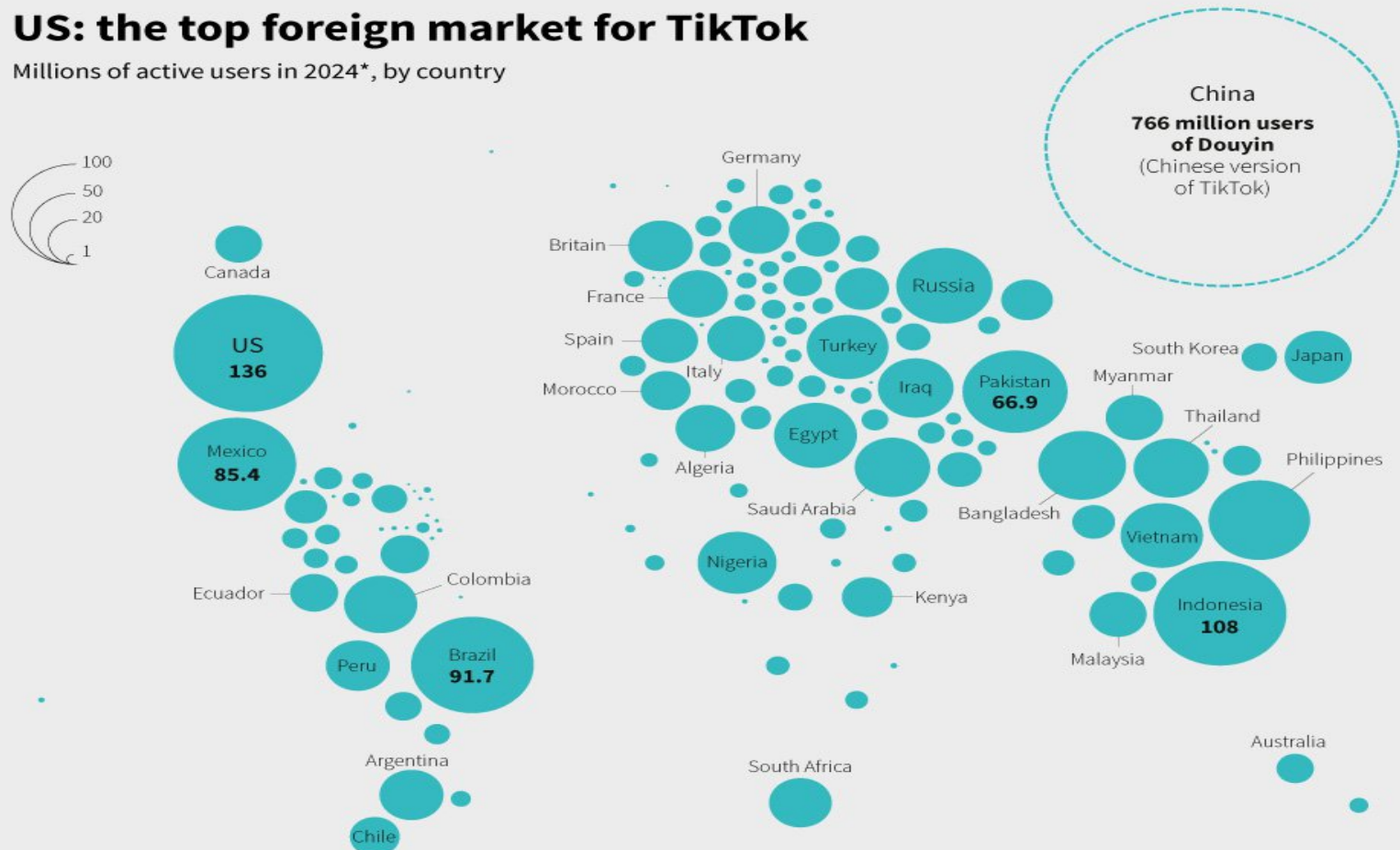
Ecommerce nel mondo



Utenti di TikTok nel mondo

US: the top foreign market for TikTok

Millions of active users in 2024*, by country

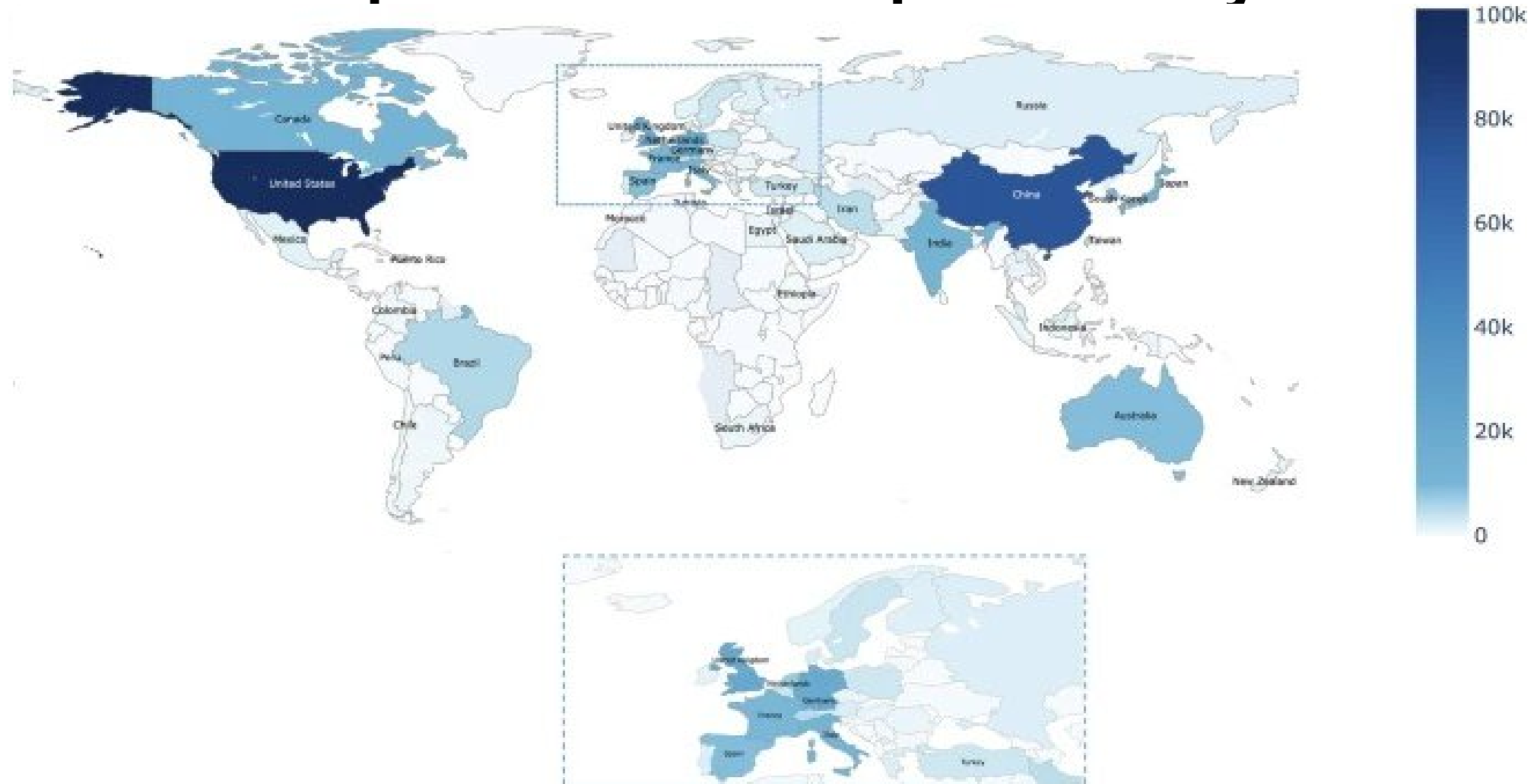


Source: Digital report 2025 from DataReportal, by Simon Kemp

*minimum of one connection per month among people over 18 years of age

AFP

Geography of the AI life science research enterprise in terms of productivity



Sovranità digitale e soluzioni *open source*

- Declaration for European Digital Sovereignty:
 - ~ **Open-source solutions** can play an important role enhancing digital sovereignty, provided they meet high cybersecurity standards and are complemented by reliable proprietary technologies where appropriate.
 - ~ Creating **European common assets** in artificial intelligence, data, cloud capacities and space infrastructure, including through public-private partnerships and open-source solutions (without prejudging the negotiations on the MFF [Multiannual Financial Framework]), will strengthen Europe's ability to protect data and secure critical infrastructures.

Un'aspirazione ... da mettere in pratica

- Affermazione (non senza ambiguità) della «sovranità digitale» europea
- Necessità di concretizzazione, attraverso un approccio geopolitico
- Visione strategica che, però, può e deve essere attuata anche attraverso condotte specifiche

Sovranità digitale – Alcune concretizzazioni

- Concretizzazioni dell'aspirazione a una sovranità digitale europea
- 2 grandi tipologie di azioni possibili nell'immediato:
 - ~ Introduzione di vincoli al settore pubblico
 - ~ Sostegno ad attività private tese a rafforzare soluzioni europee

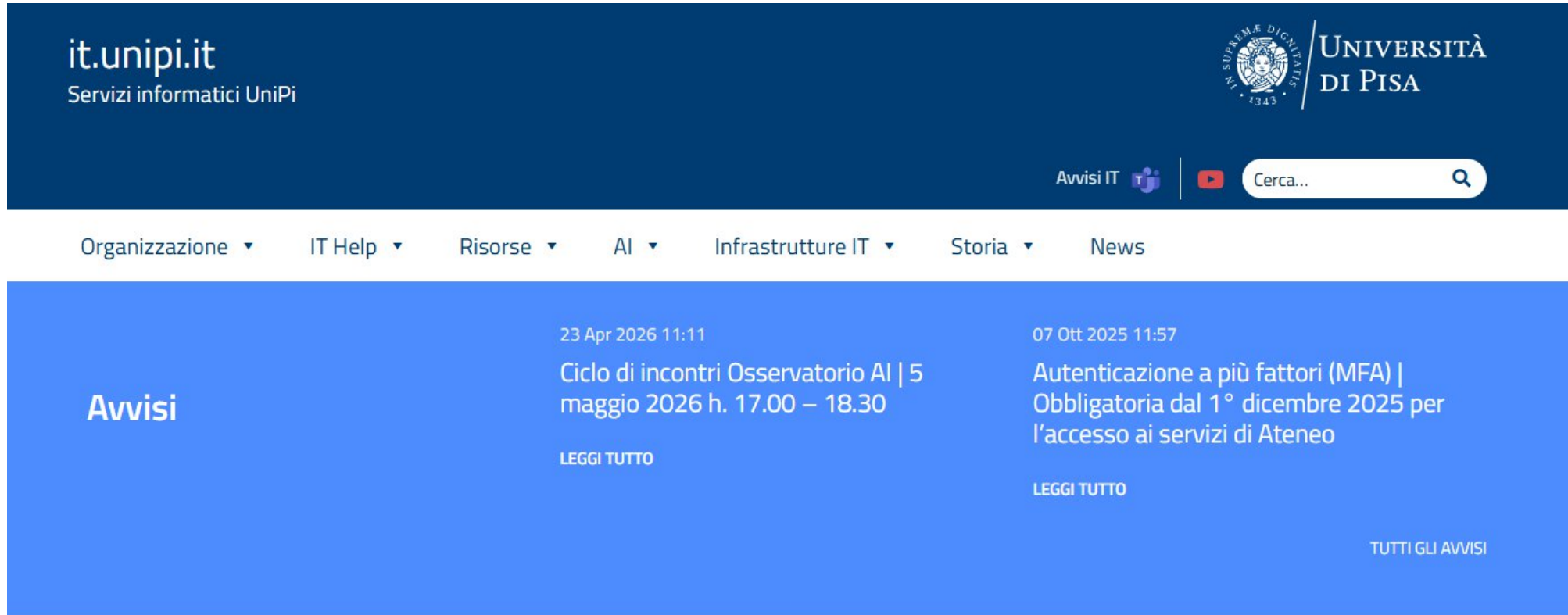
Sostegno ad attività private

- Esempio recente:
- Acquisto da parte della società canadese Cohere della *startup* tedesca [Aleph Alpha](#), in vista dello sviluppo di una AI che sia regolata a livello europeo e che si ponga come «etica»
 - ~ Creare le condizioni affinché si faccia ricerca e si sviluppino sistemi potenzialmente concorrenziali rispetto a quelli statunitensi (o, *a fortiori*, cinesi)

Interventi nel settore pubblico

- Di recente: imposto il sistema Linux ai computers del settore pubblico francese
- Settore pubblico tedesco: imposto l'utilizzo dell'*Open Document Format* (ODF)
- Settore pubblico francese: imposta [LaSuite](#) come suite onnicomprensiva, in luogo di MS Office

Non è, però, una tendenza generalizzata...



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🏠 / Software e utility / Microsoft 365

Microsoft 365

L'Università di Pisa, grazie all'accordo con **Microsoft**, offre a personale e studenti l'accesso ai servizi cloud di Office365.

Miei interventi recenti sul tema

- [*La Dichiarazione per la sovranità digitale europea e l'utilità \(trascurata\) del ricorso alla geopolitica*](#), in *Rivista dei media*, 2025, n. 3;
- [*A Moment of Truth for European Digital Sovereignty*](#), in *Geopolitical Monitor*, January 7, 2026;
- [*To Regulate or Not to Regulate?: The EU, ICT, and the Merits of a Geopolitical Approach*](#), in *Völkerrechtsblog*, 19 January 2026;
- [*Parigi sceglie Linux. Autonomia digitale, open source e i limiti della sovranità europea. Ne parliamo con Paolo Passaglia*](#) (intervista a cura di Vanni Nicolò), in *GEODI – Geopolitics, Law and Data Intelligence*, 25 aprile 2026.