

2026 Sandbox Summer School

July 13th - 17th, 2026
Lisbon, Portugal



Organized by the



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Where Policy Meets Practice

July 13th – 17th, 2026 | Católica Global School of Law, Lisbon, Portugal

Build the skills, confidence and network to design and run effective sandboxes. The **Sandbox Summer School** is a five-day, hands-on program for policymakers, innovators, and regulators who want to accelerate responsible data innovation.

Guided by international experts and peers, participants work through real-world use cases and collaborative design sessions to transform ideas into actionable sandbox prototypes. Each team leaves with a **sandbox prototype, implementation plan, and certificate of completion**, ready to apply in their institutional or national context.

Hosted by the **Datasphere Initiative**, the program builds on the success of its inaugural 2025 edition, which brought together participants from governments, international organizations, civil society and industry leaders worldwide.

**Early bird (and 40% discount) applications are open until
December 14th at 11:59 PM CET**

Apply today [here](#)



An invitation to pioneer collaborative governance innovation

In an era defined by data and technology, responsible innovation depends on how we govern together. Sandboxes are one of the most promising ways to translate principles into practice – enabling policymakers, innovators, and communities to co-design solutions in real time, while managing risk and fostering trust. Around the world, they are transforming how societies experiment, learn and adapt.

Yet, the ability to run these collaborative spaces effectively remains limited. Institutions worldwide lack the capacity, resources, and expertise to translate sandbox experimentation into sustainable policy and innovation frameworks. Building that capacity is urgent. It is what will determine whether innovation becomes a source of inclusion and trust, or of new divides.

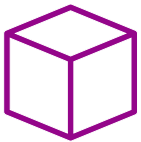
Through the Sandbox Summer School, the Datasphere Initiative is committed to equipping people and organizations with the skills, networks, and confidence to lead this next phase of governance innovation. By investing in this collective learning journey, we're not just building better sandboxes. This is our contribution to a more open, equitable, and trustworthy digital future: shaping the infrastructure of trust that makes responsible innovation possible.

I hope to see you in Lisbon!

Lorrayne Porciuncula
Executive Director & Co-Founder
Datasphere Initiative

From zero to prototype in 5 days

Sandboxing
Step-by-Step



Module 1: Understanding the Sandbox Mindset

Explore how sandboxes turn data challenges into spaces for responsible innovation. Discover global examples, governance models, and lessons for your own context.

You will:

- Identify key benefits and use cases of sandboxes
- Map your institution's role in an experimental ecosystem
- Define what success means for your sandbox project



Module 2: Sandboxes in Action

Learn from real sandbox pioneers shaping responsible innovation worldwide. Explore how different sectors, from finance and health to AI and quantum, design and test their sandbox models to tackle specific policy and innovation challenges.

You will:

- Examine case studies from regulators and innovators across multiple domains
- Identify adaptable design principles for your own sandbox concept
- Discover what makes sector-specific experimentation succeed (and where it fails)

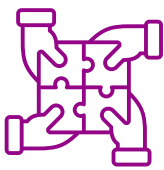


Module 3: Prototyping and testing your sandbox

Guided by experts, participants move from design to practical experimentation: testing models, refining governance approaches, and simulating real-world challenges to strengthen their sandbox foundations.

You will:

- Develop a first version of your sandbox prototype
- Test its structure through peer and expert feedback
- Identify design adjustments for scalability and impact



Module 4: Sandbox Lab: Co-Creation and Collaboration

Work side-by-side with peers and mentors to strengthen your sandbox prototype. In this collaborative lab, participants refine their sandbox designs, test assumptions, and receive tailored input from experts and practitioners. The focus is on teamwork, peer learning, and translating ideas into actionable next steps.

You will:

- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams and expert mentors
- Refine your sandbox prototype through testing and feedback
- Strengthen your roadmap for implementation and scale



Certification of Completion

Participants who successfully complete the program receive a **Certificate in Sandbox Design and Implementation**, the first credential of its kind recognizing professionals equipped to design, run and evaluate sandboxes.

The certification demonstrates participants' ability to:

- Understand and apply the sandbox methodology as a tool for responsible innovation and regulation
- Design, set up, and implement sandbox initiatives in key sectors
- Engage stakeholders and ensure transparency throughout the sandbox process
- Evaluate and iterate sandbox outcomes to guide policy or scale decisions
- Co-design a sandbox prototype relevant to their institutional or national context

This certification formally acknowledges participants as contributors to a new generation of evidence based, collaborative governance models.

Explore the detailed Sandbox Summer School 2026 program [here](#).

Datasphere Initiative Trainers



Lorraine Porciuncula, Executive Director and Co-founder

A global expert in data governance and digital policy, she leads efforts to build capacity for responsible data use through the Datasphere Initiative, drawing on experience at the OECD, ITU, UN Broadband Commission, and the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network, and affiliations with Harvard's Berkman Klein Center.



Bertrand de La Chapelle, Chief Vision Officer

A pioneer in multistakeholder Internet governance and diplomacy, he co-founded the Datasphere Initiative and the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network, following leadership roles as France's Ambassador for the Information Society, ICANN Board Director, and serial tech entrepreneur.



Sophie Tomlinson, Director Programs

An international policy and development professional with over a decade of experience in digital transformation, sustainability, and trade, she drives global programs at the Datasphere Initiative after senior roles at the ICC and the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network.



Mariana Roza-Paz, Policy, Research and Project Management Lead

A lawyer and policy professional with extensive experience in data for development and AI governance through affiliations with Harvard's Berkman Klein Center, Data-Pop Alliance, and Stanford Law School, she leads global research and innovation initiatives at the Datasphere Initiative and co-founded Boldea to empower young women in tech.



Morine Amutorine, Africa Sandbox Forum Lead

A data policy and research expert committed to strengthening Africa's innovation ecosystems, she leads the Africa Sandboxes Forum at the Datasphere Initiative, building on experience with UN Global Pulse, Data Science Africa, and global academic collaborations.



Maria Marinho, Director of Research

A legal scholar and innovation policy expert, she directs research on law, data, and emerging technologies at the Datasphere Initiative, drawing on over 14 years of academic leadership and a PhD in Law from the University of Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne).

A glimpse into the Summer School 2025



20 participants



14 countries



Key sectors: **AI, fintech, DPI, health**

Speakers 2025

Alex Moltzau, Policy Officer, European AI Office of the European Commission

Armando Guio, Executive Director, Global Network of Internet & Society Centers

Bertrand de la Chapelle, Co-Founder and Chief Vision Officer, Datasphere Initiative

Carina Quirino, Unsersecretary for Regulation and Business Environment, City of Rio Government

Jai Ganesh Udayasankaran, Executive Director, Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN)

Dr Hannah Bowden, AI Airlock Technical Programme Manager, UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Lorrayne Porciuncula, Executive Director, Datasphere Initiative

Maria Marinho, Research Director, Datasphere Initiative

Mariana Rozo-Paz, Policy, Research, and Project Management Lead, Datasphere Initiative

Dr Natasha Motsi, AI Airlock Technical Programme Manager, UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Norberto de Andrade, Founder of Polipro. AI, Law Professor and the Academic Director of the Executive Program on Law, Policy and Technology at IE Law School

Miguel Poiares Maduro, Dean and VdA Chair in Digital Governance holder at Católica Global School of Law

Raphael Von Thiesen, Programme Manager, Innovation Sandbox for Artificial Intelligence at the Canton of Zurich

Rodrigoh Henriques, Director of Innovation and Strategy, Fenabac Brazil

Sophie Tomlinson, Director of Programs, Datasphere Initiative

Thiago Moraes, Specialist on AI Governance and Data Protection, Brazilian Data Protection Authority



Participants 2025

Abby Gilbert, Co-Director, Institute for the Future of Work (IFOW), UK

Brian Byaruhanga Digital Rights Advocate
Technology Officer, Collaboration on
International ICT Policy for East and Southern
Africa (CIPEA)

Daniel Santana, Director of the Digital
Transformation and Products Division, São Paulo
Institute of Weights and Measures (IPEM-SP)

Dashradh Ram Nutakki, Mentor & Venture
Partner, Factoryal, India

Entissar Al-Shatari, Director of the Sandbox
Department, Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia

Fabiana Cebrian, Specialist in artificial
intelligence governance, data protection, and
regulatory innovation, Brazilian Data Protection
Authority (ANPD)

Giovanni King, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Nap
Americas (BNA), Curacao

Harriet Blest, independent Digital Manager
Consultant, UK

Isaac Emmanuel Vasquez, Director of
Public Innovation, the Ministry of Public
Administration, Dominican Republic

Jai Ganesh Udayasankaran, Executive Director,
Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN), India

Kayla Higgs, Deputy/Acting Director, Commu-
nications Directorate, Turks and Caicos Islands
Government

Khalila Astwood, Deputy Attorney General,
Turks and Caicos Islands Government

Lormeka Morley-Williams, Deputy Permanent
Secretary, Office of the Premier and Public Policy
in the Turks and Caicos Islands Government

María Esteller Fernández, Deputy Director, Sub-
Directorate of Reports and Test Infrastructure,
Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial
Intelligence (AESIA)

Maxwell Ababio, Head of Technology and
Ethics at Data Protection Commission, Ghana

Nidhi Sudhan, Co-founder and Director of
Citizen Digital Foundation, India

Renata Blando, Process Coordinator
of Regulatory Division, Brazil's National
Telecommunications Agency (Anatel)

Simon Aleksič, Senior Advisor, Public Agency,
Republic of Slovenia for Medicinal Products
and Medical Devices

Vera Ribič, Regulatory Affairs Officer, Agency
for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices of
the Republic of Slovenia (JAZMP)

Verena Kontschieder, Innovation Strategist,
Opendata.ch, Switzerland



"0-to-prototype in 5 days! I didn't think a 5-day workshop could equip me for that, but that's exactly how Datasphere Initiative structured the #SandboxSummerSchool... we didn't just leave with the learnings but built and presented an actual, implementable prototype." — Nidhi Sudhan, Co-founder, Citizen Digital Foundation, India

"The biggest highlight has been the people. The way that we interact, how information has been shared and what people are willing to share has impacted the way we've learned. The impact for me is the learning process. I am very happy I chose to come. I am so happy I was chosen as a participant to come and learn in this way and from this amazing people" — Giovanni King, Chief Executive Officer, Blue NAP Americas, Curacao



"I am feeling very inspired and motivated. I think we've had lots of conversations with people about how they've used these sandbox techniques and I've learned a lot about how to strategize and brand our Airlock as well (...) I think the spirit of the sandbox is highly collaborative, and I think that that way of working can benefit lots of different sectors, lots of different projects. So I think there's a lot that can be done in that collaborative environment." — Hannah Bowden, UK AI Airlock

"I've really gotten a clear understanding of sandboxes, where to come up with inclusivity, how to do proper experimentation and how to combine policy with technical expertise to make sure we come up with good sandbox strategies. It has been mind-blowing!" — Maxwell Ababio, Head of Technology and Ethics at Data Protection Commission, Ghana



"I want to take a moment to appreciate the bold vision of the Datasphere Initiative team — for not just convening thinkers, regulators, and innovators, but for launching this debut program that sits at the cutting edge of innovation policy, digital governance, and regulatory experimentation." — Dashradh Ram Nutakki, Mentor & Venture Partner at Factoryal, India



"Regulatory learning on AI is crucial with governance across Europe, which is why sandboxes will help us by innovating more responsibly." — Alex Moltzau, Policy Officer, AI Office of European Commission

"A key takeaway is the power of coming together at a Summer School like this, the power of learning from others, even those who haven't yet started their sandbox journey. There's so much to gain from their perspectives, as well as from those who are further along. The cross-pollination of ideas has been incredible. Events like this are essential to spark creativity and deepen our understanding of the space we're working in." — Natasha Motsi, UK AI Airlock



"The regional layer benefits from close contact with companies and is better able to understand their challenges." — Raphael von Thiessen, Department of Economic Affairs of the Canton of Zurich

"When you are looking to engage stakeholders, you need incentives, and you have to determine what those incentives will be."
— Thiago Moraes, PhD Scholar, Vrije Universiteit Brussel



"It was very rewarding to work on my own prototype that I wanted to implement, one that can help us ask and answer what the ideal society we can build through technological insight for tomorrow is. I think that's a huge takeaway and source of inspiration from this Summer School." — Verena Kontschieder, Prototype Fund CH, Switzerland

Hosted in a vibrant location at a historic European university

With UNESCO World Heritage sites, sun-drenched sprawling squares by the river, a history spanning more than 2000 years, Lisbon is the perfect location to experiment and co-create with sandboxes.

The Summer School is hosted by and made possible in partnership with the Catholic University of Portugal, a national university composed of the Headquarters in Lisbon and three regional centres in Porto, Braga and Viseu, each one including several schools, faculties, institutes and departments.

Travel and accommodation costs are covered by the Summer School participants. The Datasphere Initiative team can share a recommended list of hotels.



Host



CATÓLICA
Global
School of
Law

Católica Global School of Law is the host of the Sandbox Summer School 2026 in advancing innovative, inclusive, and practical approaches to regulatory experimentation and responsible innovation.



DATASPHERE
INITIATIVE

About the Datsphere Initiative

The **Datsphere Initiative** is a global think-and-do tank strengthening the field of data governance worldwide. A not-for-profit foundation based in Switzerland, we connect governments, companies, civil society, and academia to build a more connected, effective, and fair data ecosystem.

With over a decade of experience, we combine **research, policy impact, and capacity-building** to turn knowledge into action. From producing evidence-based frameworks to convening global communities of practice, we help stakeholders design data innovations that are both responsible and inclusive.

Our flagship community, the **Global Sandboxes Forum (GSF)**, brings together pioneers shaping the future of regulatory and operational sandboxes. Through its reports, workshops, and regional networks such as the **Africa Sandboxes Forum**, the GSF is translating experimentation into a global movement for better governance.

Hosted by the Datsphere Initiative, the GSF equips public and private actors with research, capacity, and practical guidance to design and implement sandboxes that unlock the value of data responsibly for people and the planet. From the [Sandboxes for Data](#) report (supported by the UK's DCMS) to [Sandboxes for AI: Tools for a New Frontier](#) (launched at the AI Action Summit in Paris, 2025), the GSF provides the evidence, tools, and global dialogue needed to strengthen this emerging field.

The **Sandbox Summer School** is part of this broader effort, a hands-on extension of the GSF's mission to empower leaders worldwide to experiment, learn, and build the next generation of data governance.

Shape the Future of Responsible Innovation

Join the Sandbox Summer School 2026 and become part of a global effort to design, test, and scale responsible innovation.

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APPLY NOW

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Contact rozopaz@thedatasphere.org for
more information.