

Imagining the Future from the Global South: The Promise of Digital Public Infrastructure

An International Roundtable at Clermont Innovation Week 2025



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Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is transforming governments and societies worldwide. This discussion brings together thought leaders from the Global South and North to explore its impact on economies and governance. Key topics include:

- What sets DPI apart from decades of digitalisation efforts?
- How is DPI shaping societies, economies, and governance, particularly in the Global South?
- What opportunities and challenges does DPI present for governments, businesses, and civil society in Europe?



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APRIL 10, 2025
3-5 PM (CET)



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GROUND FLOOR, 63000 CLERMONT-FERRAND, FRANCE**
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“Digital public infrastructure (DPI) could become a game changer for the digitalization of governments and societies. The DPI concept builds on open-source, interoperable and scalable pillars – akin to Lego blocks. These can be assembled and combined to create inclusive, resilient, and adaptable digital solutions that improve public services and, in turn, drive economic development.”

Fabrizio Santoro and Lucia Rossel, International Centre for Tax and Development, Institute of Development Studies, on [GlobalDev](#)

[Click here or scan the QR code to register](#)



About the Roundtable

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is increasingly being recognised as a key enabler of modern economies, enabling financial inclusion, governance efficiency, and digital innovation. If DPI is the future, debates on DPI must spread to the mainstream, and enter discussions about the future societies decide to pursue.

This round table will bring to the [Clermont Innovation Week 2025](#) a sampler of discussions originating across the global South and the global North, starting from India, on the topic, to engage local, national and international actors around this emerging new paradigm. The event is designed as an accessible conversation open to the general public, aimed at spreading the awareness about the promise, the reality and the implications of DPI as a new building block of our states, economy and society

The event will focus on the following questions:

- What does Digital Public Infrastructure look like? What justifies the use of this new term, after decades of debates on digitalisation?
- What do we know about the socio-economic impacts of DPI, based on the experience of countries in the global South where it is spreading rapidly?
- What does DPI and its promise mean to different actors in our society, including the private sector, government, and civil society, in Europe?

The roundtable will engage a select group of speakers, and leave plenty of space for questions and answers with the audience.



Speakers

Featuring expert speakers from the World Bank, Co-Develop, OECD, AFD, FERDI and GDN, this roundtable is designed to spark dialogue and collaboration.



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Background Reading

- The work of the Global Development Network on the socio-economic impacts of DPI
- The work of Co-Develop on mainstreaming DPI across sectors and countries
- Digital public infrastructure for digital governments, a Policy paper by OECD
- Accessible contributions on the existing research on DPI on the blog GlobalDev
- Mobile Phones and Development in Africa: Does the Evidence Meet the Hype?, a book by FERDI's Chaire Confiance Numérique

The Global Development Network (GDN) is a public international organisation that supports high-quality, policy-oriented, social science research in Low- and Middle- Income Countries (LMICs), to promote better lives.

In collaboration with Co-Develop, GDN implemented a pilot programme measuring the socio-economic impact of DPI in Bangladesh, Benin and Ethiopia to study the developmental impacts of DPI in their respective countries.

Visit www.gdn.int to learn more.

