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## The Geneva Data Community



# The Geneva Data Community: Digital sovereignty and responsible innovation: strengthening the Geneva ecosystem in an interconnected world

An Initiative from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office  
hosted by Giga at the Giga Connectivity Centre

Thursday, 16 April 2026, 17:00 – 18:30  
Venue: Campus Biotech, Chem. des Mines 9,  
1202 Genève

The Geneva Data Community, initiated by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, brings together data producers across Geneva. Twice a year, the network meets informally to exchange on data practices, share expertise, and strengthen collaboration. For this edition, we are opening the event to a wider audience to discuss digital sovereignty and responsible innovation.

As technological transformation accelerates and geopolitical dynamics grow more complex, the multi-lateral system is entering a period of profound change. Digital infrastructures, artificial intelligence, and global data flows are reshaping not only economies and societies, but also the very foundations of international **data governance**. In this context, **trust in data** is emerging as a critical pillar of digital sovereignty and responsible innovation. The ability to generate, share, and use trusted data across borders will determine how effectively states, international organizations, and private actors can address global challenges in an increasingly interconnected world.

This event will convene actors from International Geneva to explore how the multilateral ecosystem can adapt and remain effective in a rapid technological change. The discussion will examine how emerging technologies are transforming governance frameworks and requiring new models of collaboration. A particular focus will be placed on the role of trusted data infrastructures as enablers of cooperation and innovation. The **Trusted Data Observatory** provides an illustrative example of how Geneva-based initiatives are working to operationalize trust in data through shared standards.

Recent discussions at the UN Statistical Commission have also highlighted the growing urgency of making official statistics “**AI-ready**” as users increasingly access public data through artificial intelligence systems rather than directly from institutional sources. This shift raises new challenges related to visibility, correct interpretation, and the risk of inaccurate or outdated information being amplified by AI tools. Strengthening machine-readable metadata, data governance frameworks, and collaboration between statistical institutions and technology platforms is therefore becoming essential to ensure that trusted public data remains discoverable, interpretable, and reliably used in AI-driven environments.

The event will also situate Geneva's efforts within the broader momentum surrounding artificial intelligence governance, including Switzerland's leadership in convening the upcoming **AI Summit**. By linking local initiatives with global policy discussions, the event will highlight Geneva's unique role as data hub where technology, diplomacy, and governance intersect. The discussion will explore how strengthening the Geneva ecosystem can contribute to shaping a more resilient and trusted global digital order.

## Agenda

Master of Ceremony: Ambassador **Benjamin Rothen**, Head of International and National Affairs FSO

17:00 – 17:10 Welcoming remarks by **Thomas Gürber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and other Organizations in Geneva.

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17:10 – 17:20 Keynote: Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (**GESDA**)

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17:20 – 18:00 Panel Discussion

- **Pádraig Dalton**, Project lead “Trusted Data Observatory”
- **Irene Kaggwa**, Programme Manager at ITU
- **Samira Gazzane**, Policy Lead, Future-Ready Economies, WEF
- **Ines Knäpper**, Women in AI Switzerland

Moderation by: **Hannah Redders**, Project manager, Data for Change – the PARIS21 Foundation

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18:00 – 18:20 Q&A Session

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18:20 – 18:25 Wrap up by **Christian Laux**, Senior Advisor at Laux Lawyers AG

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18:25 – 18:30 Closing remarks by **Benjamin Rothen** (FSO) and **Yannick Heiniger**, Partnerships Lead, Giga, ITU

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18:30 – 19:30 Apéro - Networking

Thank you for confirming the participation via this [RSVP Link](#), by Monday, 13 April 2026 COB.