Data and Platform Co-operatives
amidst the European Algorithmic and Liquid Citizenship

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Europe increasingly operates online; a scattered geography creates a different reality in which political decisions and national laws transform physical space into virtual territory. Digital economies are integrated, populations are mobile, and the cyber- or techno-political domain is merging with physical reality or the city-regional domain. However, this virtual and analogic merger does not occur automatically and has even less respect for fixed territorial borders. As such, citizens today are increasingly (though unwittingly) digitally connected through artificial intelligence (AI) and machine-learning devices that remain unevenly and pervasively distributed, fuelling a 'liquid' sense of global and 'algorithmic' cosmopolitan citizenship (Calzada, 2018a; Castells, 2018; Khanna, 2016).

Against the backdrop of the post-GDPR European realm, this paper points to two intertwined research questions:

- How can city and regional authorities in Europe proactively foster alternative data governance regimes (Calzada, 2018c; 2018d; Coletta, Evans, Heaphy, & Kitchin, 2018; Delacroix & Lawrence, 2019)?
- How can this type of 'algorithmic and liquid citizenship' be able to experiment self-governed, resilient, sustainable, and, overall, empowered co-operative service provision-like data governance models—by re-shaping the power asymmetries among business, government, and citizenship—thus striking a fair and further democratic balance?

These answers are still unfolding (Calzada & Cowie, 2017; Martens & Duch Brown, 2019). Thus, this research paper stems from the research programme of DigiTranScope (DigiTranScope, 2019), which

brings people together around the governance of digitally transformed human societies, aiming to build a network of experts to tackle challenges that European diverse societies are already facing. More generally, the European Commission 2019–2024 Plan, explicitly highlights that there is high time that we reconcile the social vis-à-vis the market in today's European modern society and economy. This leads us to point out that technological sovereignty could be subject to enhance democracy from the social market economy perspective (Calzada, 2019a; European Commission, 2019; Maurer, Skierka, Morgus, & Hohmann, 2015)

But what would these local and regional data ecosystems look like in Europe in years to come (Calzada, 2019b)? Are these local and regional data ecosystems willing to experiment towards the widest version of the stakeholder's policy scheme (namely Penta Helix), including government, business, civic society, academia, and assemblers/bricoleurs/intermediaries/entrepreneurs/activists (Barns, 2020; Calzada, 2018b; Kennedy, Poell, & van Dijck, 2015)? How would governance of communal data sharing look (Ho & Chuangt, 2019)? Actually, it would mean the most radical approach, probably the only one that challenges the dominant model: the data corporate governance model, based on alternative data storage protocols or/and platforms such as organisational/business models collecting data for social good and mutual benefits—but openly discarding the commodification of personal data.

This paper refers to and thus elaborates about a 'new' version of '*co-operativism*' (Calzada, 2013; Clamp & Alhamis, 2010; Edenfield, 2019) applied to digital and data environments, the so-called Data Cooperatives (Blasimme, Vayena, & Hafen, 2018; Hafen, 2019; Hardjono & Pentland, 2019; Mòdol, 2019; P2PFoundation, 2019; Pentland et al., 2019) and/or Platform Cooperatives (Borkin, 2019; McCann & Yazici, 2018; Scholz, 2016; Scholz & Schneider, 2015; Sutton, 2016).

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