

Evaluating global data policies around non-personal data on social and public good

Abstract

Purpose- *The paper reviews rules and policy guidelines worldwide around non-personal data (NPD) and evaluates the policies on criteria that allow for use of data for economic and social good. A review related to diverse policy approaches of various countries remains a research gap and hence the analysis in the paper is designed with the intention of developing a research framework and providing policy gaps for further exploration.*

Design/methodology/approach- *A scoping review of academic and non-academic literature on applications of NPD for economic and social good, and NPD policies and regulations was conducted to identify the evaluation criteria. Thirty-two dimensions got identified for evaluation. As step 2, content analysis was used for evaluation. Thirteen documents from six countries and one geographical region were identified for evaluation. The documents were evaluated based on the thirty-two dimensions spread across five domains that facilitate data access and sharing for economic and societal benefit.*

Findings- *Analysis highlights three distinct emerging perspectives on data exchange, a) most policy and regulatory documents acknowledge the importance of identifying different types of non-personal data and accordingly describing the distinct roles and responsibilities of data actors for leveraging the data, b) the policy and regulatory frameworks clearly focus on increasing business opportunities, data sharing cooperation, and innovation, and c) findings also demonstrate certain gaps in the policy frameworks such as a more comprehensive discussion on data access and sharing mechanisms, particularly data sandboxes and open data; and concrete norms and rigorous standards regarding accountability, transparency, ownership, and confidentiality. Furthermore, policies and regulations may include appropriate incentive structures for data providers and data users to ensure unhindered and sustainable access to data for the common good.*

Originality- *The paper represents one of the first research contributions evaluating global data policies focused on non-personal data in the context of its increasing use as a public good. The paper firstly, identifies evaluation criteria for analysis on public and social good, and thus, provides a conceptual framework for future research. Additionally, the analysis identifies the broad domains of policy analysis on social and public good, for data economics.*

Keywords *Non-personal data, Social good, Economic good, Global policies, Regulation, Digital technology*