***Citizens and public authorities need to trust regulatory regimes that their interests are safeguarded in terms of data and privacy protection, financial stability or product safety for instance. An optimal level of trust is required for the well-functioning of regulatory regimes. The EU project TiGRE investigates under which conditions regulatory regimes are trusted by analysing the interactions between the involved actors, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of democracy.***

**TiGRE for better democracy**

The recent Facebook–Cambridge Analytica data breach has created threats for citizens’ trust in regulatory regimes. Such privacy-threatening activities reveal that an optimal level of trust is a precondition and a consequence of well-functioning of regulatory regimes, which operate across different levels of governance for carrying out regulatory policies.

TiGRE aims to investigate under which conditions regulatory regimes are trusted by studying the relationships between the involved actors (such as administrative bodies, politicians, courts, firms, business, consumer groups and citizens at large). TiGRE will provide a comprehensive view of trust dynamics, their drivers and their political and socio-economic effects.

TiGRE will connect research with practice by providing policy-makers and stakeholders with indicators, scenarios and recommendations to handle trust crises and optimize trust relationships within regulatory regimes in order to achieve stable, sustainable and fair social relations in regulatory governance.

**TiGRE analytical framework**

TiGRE will explore trust relationships at different levels of governance such as regional, national and European and in three high value sectors: Food Safety, Finance and Communication & Data protection.

A plethora of methods, including questionnaires for large-scale surveys, case studies, focus groups, experimental studies and media content analysis, will be employed to target a broad range of European regulatory actors, stakeholders and citizens, thus providing a more encompassing picture of trust dynamics.

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| Over the next 3.5 years, University of Lausanne (UNIL), with strong expertise in the study of multi-level governance and regulatory policies, will coordinate the TiGRE project with the help of SCIPROM. This multidisciplinary project will benefit from the expertise of 9 partner universities and research centres from 9 different countries: University of Lausanne (Switzerland), Antwerp University (Belgium), Aarhus University (Denmark), Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel), German University of Administrative Sciences (Germany), Kozminski University (Poland), Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals (Spain), University of Oslo (Norway) and Utrecht University (The Netherlands). All partners have affinity to questions related to trust and regulatory governance, with largely complementary as well as strategically overlapping and interdisciplinary competences in political science, social psychology, law, economics, public administration and communication studies. The TiGRE project, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, started on 1 January 2020 and will run until 30 June 2023. |