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Journal “Temas de Integração”

2027 – n.º 47

Launched in 1996, Revista Temas de Integração (RTI) was conceived as a forum for reflection on the newly established European Union and other regional integration movements that were then shaping a world marked by accelerated post–Cold War globalisation, in which citizenship and democracy assumed a central role. Now published digitally and in open access, RTI welcomes articles in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese on the emergence, development, consolidation, and even contestation of regional integration spaces, approached from a range of disciplinary perspectives beyond law.

Call for Papers:

What Is the Relationship between Regional Integration Spaces and Emerging Technologies?

Technological development, and emerging technologies in particular, pose fundamental challenges to core values such as the rule of law, human rights, and democracy. So-called technological sovereignty has become a central concern for governments and regional international organisations in contemporary societies. Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), big data, cloud computing, edge computing and quantum computing, semiconductors and superconductors, 5G and 6G communication networks, and other emerging technologies are increasingly structuring economic activity, public-service delivery, scientific research and development, and the maintenance of national and individual security. They also influence the functioning of society and democratic participation itself. In this context, technological sovereignty refers to a region’s capacity to influence the development of emerging technologies while setting rules, protecting individual rights and public interests, and retaining control over critical technologies and infrastructures, thereby safeguarding national independence and security.

This issue is particularly relevant in the context of regional integration spaces. Considered in isolation, many States lack the economic scale, technical capacity, or regulatory power required to influence global technology companies, develop their own infrastructures, and reduce strategic dependencies. Collective action within regional integration spaces makes it possible to aggregate public demand, create larger digital markets, finance



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regional public goods, share technical capacities, coordinate positions in international forums, and lead efforts to harmonise rules.

The European Union is an important reference point in this field. The establishment of a Digital Single Market, common data protection, and—in the case of GenAI—the Artificial Intelligence Act, the Cyber Solidarity Act, the AI Continent Action Plan, and the Cloud Sovereignty Framework illustrate a strategy that combines regulation, investment, security, and industrial policy. The European Union's proactive stance seeks, on the one hand, to address the risks posed by emerging technologies and, on the other, to strengthen Europe's capacity to innovate, set standards, and reduce technological dependence.

However, the regional governance of emerging technologies is not an exclusively European experience. For example, the African Union, through its Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy and the African Digital Compact, advances a continental approach to AI, data, connectivity, security, and inclusion. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, through the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2030, has likewise sought to coordinate policies on data, GenAI, digital security, and connectivity. In Latin America and the Caribbean, CARICOM and MERCOSUR have increasingly recognised the importance of regional cooperation for digital resilience, the security of critical infrastructure, and technological autonomy.

GenAI illustrates particularly clearly the limits of exclusively national responses. Its development and deployment depend on large volumes of data, computing capacity, energy, specialised knowledge, security standards, and access to models and platforms often controlled by a small number of global actors. Regional integration can create the conditions for establishing common principles, sharing infrastructure, training human resources, producing situated knowledge, and developing technological solutions within a regulatory framework tailored to the social, economic, linguistic, and cultural needs of each region.

Data governance likewise calls for a regional perspective. Big data constitute strategic resources for AI, digital public services, scientific research, e-commerce, and security. Their concentration in global platforms may limit the capacity of States and regions to apply their rules, protect privacy, promote competition, and ensure that the benefits of digitalisation are distributed more equitably. Regional cooperation can foster interoperability, the protection of personal data, the secure circulation of information, and the development of public or shared data infrastructures.

Cybersecurity is another field in which regional integration is becoming increasingly important. Cyberattacks, digital espionage, disinformation, supply-chain vulnerabilities, and attacks on critical infrastructure may be transnational in nature. The effective protection of energy networks, hospitals,



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transport, financial systems, and communications requires early-warning mechanisms, information-sharing, specialised training, and coordinated response capabilities. The establishment of regional networks and instruments may be particularly relevant for States with more limited institutional and financial resources.

Digital infrastructures are also at the centre of this debate. Connectivity networks, submarine cables, data centres, cloud-based digital services, digital identity systems, communications and Earth-observation satellites, and payment platforms have become essential components of economic autonomy and political sovereignty. A region excessively dependent on infrastructure controlled by external actors may be exposed to service disruptions, unequal bargaining power, geopolitical pressure, or difficulties in enforcing its own rules. In this area, regional integration can facilitate joint investment, interoperability standards, coordinated public procurement, and transnational infrastructure projects, thereby further strengthening the region's technological sovereignty.

At the same time, technological sovereignty raises normative and political tensions. The pursuit of autonomy should not necessarily translate into trade protectionism, Internet fragmentation, or disproportionate restrictions on research or international cooperation. It is important to distinguish dependence from interdependence: interdependence may be beneficial when based on diversified, transparent, and mutually beneficial relationships; dependence becomes problematic when alternatives do not exist, when regions are unable to audit critical systems, or when they lack the capacity to define and enforce their own rules.

The 47th issue of *Revista Temas de Integração* therefore invites the submission of articles examining the relationship between regional integration spaces and emerging technologies. Critical, legal, and interdisciplinary approaches are especially encouraged, particularly those that move beyond a one-dimensional perspective and also consider political, economic, social, historical, technical, geopolitical, and other dimensions. Contributions addressing the following thematic strands are particularly welcome:

- (1) **Technological sovereignty, strategic autonomy, and regional integration:** concepts, theoretical models, political and geopolitical disputes; issues relating to sovereignty, autonomy, resilience, economic security, and technological dependence.
- (2) **Technological dependence, development, and regional asymmetries:** dependence on external providers and platforms; inequalities among Member States; the development of industrial and technology policies; technology transfer and cyber solidarity; digital inclusion and global justice.

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(3) Artificial intelligence and regional governance: AI regulation; ethical standards and fundamental rights; computing capacity; big data and regional language models; innovation, research, training, and skills development; comparative analysis of regional strategies.

(4) Technology regulation: legislative harmonisation in the fields of competition, public procurement, taxation, and digital-market regulation; the relationship between regional regulation and State sovereignty; the international diffusion of regional norms.

(5) Data, platforms, and digital governance from a regional perspective: data protection and circulation; interoperability; public data and data infrastructures; platform concentration; digital identity; digital public services and citizenship.

(6) Cybersecurity, resilience, and critical infrastructure: regional cooperation in response to cyber threats; response mechanisms and information-sharing; the security of networks and systems in the energy, transport, health, and financial sectors.

(7) Digital infrastructure and regional economic integration: 5G and 6G connectivity, submarine cables, data centres, microchips, satellites, and high-performance computing; the financing, ownership, and security of strategic infrastructure.

(8) Regional integration, democracy, and rights in the digital environment: the impact of emerging technologies on citizenship, political participation, and privacy; freedom of expression and disinformation; non-discrimination and the protection of fundamental rights.

Key dates for the peer-review process leading to the publication of Issue 47, scheduled for the second half of 2027:

Date	Action
November 30th, 2026	Submission of abstracts
December 11th, 2026	Notification of accepted abstracts
March, 15th, 2027	Deadline for submission of full articles
June 10th, 2027	Peer review process, revision by the authors and submission of the revised articles
July, 2th, 2027	Notification of accepted full articles
August 31st, 2027	Final revisions and editorial closure

Important: The final acceptance of full articles will be confirmed after the peer review process.



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Rules for the submission of abstracts:

- a. The proposed article to be developed must be presented in the form of an abstract of 200 to 250 words, including spaces, in Times New Roman, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing.
- b. The title must appear above the abstract, in Times New Roman, size 14, in uppercase bold, left-justified.
- c. Authorship must appear below the abstract, accompanied by a brief biographical note of no more than 500 characters (per author), including spaces. Authors are encouraged to include their ORCID identification (<https://orcid.org/register>) and academic affiliation, where applicable.
- d. The abstract must be structured as follows: (1) a brief introduction of 1–2 sentences situating the reader in the general topic and explaining the relevance of the research problem; (2) the research objective or question; (3) methodology, specifying the methods or approaches employed¹; (4) main results; (5) a conclusion highlighting the implications of the results (e.g., originality, impact, contribution to the field) e (6) identification of avenues for future research.
- e. Four to six keywords must be included, in lowercase and separated by commas. To optimise search engine results: (1) choose relevant and specific terms that accurately reflect the central topic of the article, avoiding generic terms (e.g., *environmental diplomacy in the Arctic* instead of *diplomacy*); (2) for each keyword, expressions of 2 to 5 words, with a maximum of 120 characters, are preferred; (3) consider the terms that potential readers would search for; (4) ensure coherence with the article's content.
- f. Abstracts may be submitted in Portuguese, English, Spanish, or French.
- g. Authors must indicate, above the title, the thematic axis to which the proposed article belongs.
- h. Abstracts must be submitted by **30 November 2026** to the email address temasdeintegracao@fd.uc.pt.

¹ In legal articles that adopt classical hermeneutic methods, it is sufficient to provide a brief explanation of the methodology employed.



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Submission Guidelines for Full Articles (Post-Acceptance of Abstracts):

- a. Authors of abstracts accepted by the journal must submit their full articles by 15 March 2027, via email to temasdeintegracao@fd.uc.pt
- b. Articles may be written in Portuguese, English, Spanish, or French.
- c. Article title must be at least bilingual (Portuguese and English) or trilingual if the article is presented in Spanish or French.
- d. Articles must be submitted in an editable file format (.doc/.docx/.odt), with uniform formatting. It is recommended to use Times New Roman font, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing for the body text, and size 10 with single spacing for footnotes. Margins should be 2.5 cm on all sides.
- e. Articles should be between 12 and 15 pages in A4 format, including references.
- f. APA 7th Edition style must be used for citations and references.
- g. A reference list must be included at the end of the article. Na lista, devem ser incluídas apenas as referências mencionadas no artigo.
- h. Italics should be used instead of underlining, except for URLs.
- i. Complete author(s) identification must be included (maximum of 4 lines per author), including name, affiliations, email, and ORCID.
- j. Inclusion of four to six keywords and an abstract of up to 300 characters, including spaces, in the language of the article, Portuguese, and English. For these, please follow the guidelines set out in points “d” and “f” above regarding the rules for abstract submission.
- k. Footnotes should be used sparingly and should not exceed 300 characters (including spaces) individually.

Any questions can be directed to the email address:
temasdeintegracao@fd.uc.pt

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