

00:00:00:00 - 00:00:20:03

Vanessa Goas

Hello, and welcome to the new season of Data. For what? The Development Gateway Podcast. I'm your host, Vanessa Gomez, and in this series will work to explore the intersection of climate and data. And each episode will delve into the critical issues shaping our world and examining the critical role of data and technology in understanding and addressing the urgent challenge of climate change.

00:00:20:03 - 00:00:24:12

Vanessa Goas

Throughout this series will be featuring thought leaders and professionals who are at the forefront of this work.

00:00:24:12 - 00:00:35:02

Vanessa Goas

They'll be sharing their insights and experience, unraveling the complexities of this topic and exploring how data driven solutions can shape the way we perceive, adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

00:00:35:02 - 00:00:42:14

Vanessa Goas

As always, DG believes in using data, technology and evidence to create more effective participatory institutions and improve people's lives

00:00:44:10 - 00:00:55:01

Vanessa Goas

leading up to COP 28 For our first episode, we think it's a good time to discuss the role of data and digital transformation in relation to climate change adaptation, and specifically focusing on climate finance.

00:00:55:01 - 00:01:04:00

Vanessa Goas

This is a really key moment to revisit the need for transparency and accountability in how funding dedicated to climate change adaptation is being managed and evaluated around the world.

00:01:03:15 - 00:01:06:02

Vanessa Goas

Today we're joined by Sebastian Ohman,

00:01:06:02 - 00:01:16:00

Vanessa Goas

advisor of the Data Economy Initiative Inside the Global Project of Digital Transformation from Gisaid, which supports Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

00:01:16:05 - 00:01:20:00

Sebastian Öhmann

thank you so much, Vanessa, and thanks for having me. So my name is Session, and

00:01:20:00 - 00:01:23:01

Sebastian Öhmann

part of jazz, it's global project of digital transformation.

00:01:23:01 - 00:01:28:08

Sebastian Öhmann

Our general mission or objective is to take on various development challenges, for example, in the area of climate,

00:01:28:08 - 00:01:33:00

Sebastian Öhmann

but always with the help and with the focus of utilizing digital technologies. And

00:01:33:00 - 00:01:35:04

Sebastian Öhmann

our global project in general consists of

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Sebastian Öhmann

various initiative, all focusing on digital technologies such as

00:01:38:15 - 00:01:40:06

Sebastian Öhmann

blockchain, AI,

00:01:40:06 - 00:01:43:00

Sebastian Öhmann

data for policy, and then also data economy.

00:01:43:01 - 00:01:48:08

Sebastian Öhmann

in the context of my work within the Data Economy initiative, one of the key areas we are focusing on

00:01:48:08 - 00:01:51:02

Sebastian Öhmann

the climate sector and particularly

00:01:51:02 - 00:01:57:11

Sebastian Öhmann

the so-called just transition. So supporting to greening economies in a way that is fair and inclusive.

00:01:57:12 - 00:01:59:09

Sebastian Öhmann

here a lot of my work is focused

00:01:59:09 - 00:02:00:10

Sebastian Öhmann

on supporting

00:02:00:10 - 00:02:03:06

Sebastian Öhmann

concrete, digital solution and use cases that

00:02:03:06 - 00:02:07:08

Sebastian Öhmann

demonstrate in the field of development cooperation how data can

00:02:07:08 - 00:02:10:01

Sebastian Öhmann

sustainably improve the lives of people.

00:02:10:02 - 00:02:12:12

Sebastian Öhmann

And to do that, of course, climate finance is

00:02:12:12 - 00:02:13:08

Sebastian Öhmann

quite important.

00:02:13:11 - 00:02:15:07

Sebastian Öhmann

really nice to engage them on that topic.

00:02:15:08 - 00:02:22:10

Sebastian Öhmann

let me get started with a little bit of background and what might seem like an obvious question.

00:02:22:10 - 00:02:26:02

Sebastian Öhmann

So what do we mean when we are talking about climate finance?

00:02:26:02 - 00:02:35:12

Sebastian Öhmann

think the truth is that it really depends on who you ask. There's no standard definition for what is and what isn't considered climate finance.

00:02:35:13 - 00:02:42:08

Sebastian Öhmann

What we know is that addressing climate change and its effects is really a multi actor and multisector effort.

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Sebastian Öhmann

It touches on almost everything,

00:02:44:11 - 00:02:49:10

Sebastian Öhmann

but also if you define it too broadly, it could almost turn out to be a little meaningless.

00:02:49:10 - 00:03:01:11

Sebastian Öhmann

generally, the term climate finance is applied to financial resources devoted to addressing climate change by all public and private actors from the global to the very hyper local scale

00:03:01:11 - 00:03:07:09

Sebastian Öhmann

includes international financial flows to developing countries to assist them in addressing climate change.

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Sebastian Öhmann

And

00:03:08:02 - 00:03:19:00

Sebastian Öhmann

for our purposes, we're going to speak about climate finance today as it relates to the global, national and local funds dedicated to mitigating the impacts of climate change and climate adaptation.

00:03:19:00 - 00:03:20:10

Sebastian Öhmann

So for us, it's really important

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Sebastian Öhmann

keep this lens

00:03:21:11 - 00:03:30:09

Sebastian Öhmann

more narrow because at DGG and with guys that we've long been in the business of helping governments monitor aid and development activities

00:03:30:09 - 00:03:35:10

Sebastian Öhmann

with the goal of increasing efficiency and effectiveness of aid through our aid management program.

00:03:35:11 - 00:03:42:00

Sebastian Öhmann

So we see this next step moving into climate finance as the natural evolution of this discussion.

00:03:42:08 - 00:03:46:10

Sebastian Öhmann

I think that especially, you know, the topic of monitoring

00:03:46:10 - 00:03:47:13

Sebastian Öhmann

climate finance and,

00:03:47:13 - 00:03:51:06

Sebastian Öhmann

and in general climate finance as a as a core topic, I think

00:03:51:06 - 00:03:54:00

Sebastian Öhmann

in this day and age, it's it's getting more and more important,

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Sebastian Öhmann

but especially in the area. Then again, to the topic of

00:03:56:14 - 00:04:01:02

Sebastian Öhmann

monitoring climate finance, I think data can play a pivotal role to

00:04:01:02 - 00:04:04:05

Sebastian Öhmann

really achieve impact and contribute,

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Sebastian Öhmann

let's say more concretely to like broader objectives like national climate targets indices or

00:04:11:02 - 00:04:13:01

Sebastian Öhmann

the Sustainable Development Goals

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Sebastian Öhmann

and I think that,

00:04:14:02 - 00:04:19:13

Sebastian Öhmann

digital tools in particular, like I mean, systems management platforms

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Sebastian Öhmann

can be really useful tools for actually ensuring that

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Sebastian Öhmann

climate financing

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Sebastian Öhmann

used fairly so that investments,

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Sebastian Öhmann

for example, in the development sectors can really

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Sebastian Öhmann

strengthen the engagement of private and public actors as well as local communities.

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Sebastian Öhmann

Because I would also say that

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Sebastian Öhmann

in general,

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Sebastian Öhmann

these sectors like

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Sebastian Öhmann

private public and local communities, are crucial components

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Sebastian Öhmann

for dealing with this complex and interconnected challenge of climate change. And

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Sebastian Öhmann

in this sense, more concretely, of course, for

00:04:48:00 - 00:04:52:07

Sebastian Öhmann

climate adaptation and yeah, climate mitigation, that's at a national level.

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Sebastian Öhmann

really touch on, I think, an important question which probably a lot of our listeners might have, which is in the face of such an overwhelming challenge, which is climate change

00:05:03:06 - 00:05:07:00

Sebastian Öhmann

and which is, you know, dealing with the day to day impacts that that has.

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Sebastian Öhmann

Why are we suggesting that

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Sebastian Öhmann

funders and government and other actors might want to invest in

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Sebastian Öhmann

data

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Sebastian Öhmann

and all of the infrastructure that goes around data?

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Sebastian Öhmann

And I think you touch on an important point, which is that

00:05:20:01 - 00:05:24:07

Sebastian Öhmann

without knowing what's happening, we can't really know what works.

00:05:24:08 - 00:05:27:11

Sebastian Öhmann

Yeah, and this especially, I think that, you know,

00:05:27:11 - 00:05:29:15

Sebastian Öhmann

best case scenario would be that,

00:05:29:15 - 00:05:32:11

Sebastian Öhmann

climate finance is result orientated, right

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Sebastian Öhmann

that you can see on what kind of level on a on a national level,

00:05:36:04 - 00:05:38:11

Sebastian Öhmann

a local level, on what kind of impact

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Sebastian Öhmann

such investment gains

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Sebastian Öhmann

can actually

00:05:41:02 - 00:05:41:06

Sebastian Öhmann

bring.

00:05:41:06 - 00:05:41:14

Sebastian Öhmann

So

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Sebastian Öhmann

in a sense, this would boost on the one side even more climate financing mechanism because, you know, having some kind of

00:05:49:01 - 00:05:51:13

Sebastian Öhmann

reliable and transparent infrastructure

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Sebastian Öhmann

is quite important for all stakeholders involved in

00:05:55:06 - 00:05:57:00

Sebastian Öhmann

in the topic of climate finance.

00:05:57:03 - 00:06:03:09

Sebastian Öhmann

our work together, we've talked a lot about data value creation. What does that mean for you?

00:06:03:10 - 00:06:06:04

Sebastian Öhmann

for me, data value creation in general really means

00:06:06:04 - 00:06:08:05

Sebastian Öhmann

linking values, social,

00:06:08:05 - 00:06:09:05

Sebastian Öhmann

ecological,

00:06:09:05 - 00:06:12:01

Sebastian Öhmann

economic values to data. And in that sense,

00:06:12:01 - 00:06:15:09

Sebastian Öhmann

using data in, let's say, human centered manner

00:06:15:09 - 00:06:17:06

Sebastian Öhmann

to really improve people's life. But

00:06:17:06 - 00:06:22:06

Sebastian Öhmann

always, of course, with the clear perspective that this has to be done in a sustainable or let's say,

00:06:22:06 - 00:06:25:00

Sebastian Öhmann

climate positive way, maybe also I would say

00:06:25:00 - 00:06:28:08

Sebastian Öhmann

this term of just transition really, really suits you as well

00:06:28:08 - 00:06:29:11

Sebastian Öhmann

as from my perspective,

00:06:29:11 - 00:06:32:07

Sebastian Öhmann

data value creation can really enable

00:06:32:07 - 00:06:34:04

Sebastian Öhmann

and innovative use of data

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Sebastian Öhmann

in the

00:06:34:08 - 00:06:35:01

Sebastian Öhmann

public.

00:06:35:01 - 00:06:39:04

Sebastian Öhmann

But then also in the private sector, because at the end of the day,

00:06:39:04 - 00:06:40:00

Sebastian Öhmann

data

00:06:40:00 - 00:06:45:11

Sebastian Öhmann

could be utilized with the more clear impact driven focus, which would of course be particularly important

00:06:45:11 - 00:06:47:03

Sebastian Öhmann

for any kind of climate actions.

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Sebastian Öhmann

yeah, I think

00:06:47:15 - 00:06:49:04

Sebastian Öhmann

this kind of

00:06:49:13 - 00:06:52:15

Sebastian Öhmann

existing data to concrete values

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Sebastian Öhmann

in a social or ecological term

00:06:55:06 - 00:06:57:02

Sebastian Öhmann

can be quite important nowadays.

00:06:57:02 - 00:07:02:05

Sebastian Öhmann

I think I see this as a really important transition in sort of how we

00:07:02:05 - 00:07:07:12

Sebastian Öhmann

have conceptualized the data revolution. Right. I think one of the main criticisms

00:07:07:12 - 00:07:09:05

Sebastian Öhmann

of the data revolution

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Sebastian Öhmann

was that initially

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Sebastian Öhmann

it was so focused on just creating data.

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Sebastian Öhmann

How much data can we

00:07:14:06 - 00:07:18:02

Sebastian Öhmann

create, Can we collect, how much data can we publish and put out there?

00:07:18:02 - 00:07:23:08

Sebastian Öhmann

And it took a long time, I think, for a lot of stakeholders to really transition to the idea of

00:07:23:08 - 00:07:25:03

Sebastian Öhmann

how do we then use that data.

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Sebastian Öhmann

And now, as you're saying, how do we use that data

00:07:27:13 - 00:07:31:13

Sebastian Öhmann

in a valuable way to actually drive positive social change?

00:07:32:00 - 00:07:34:03

Sebastian Öhmann

Yeah, definitely. And I also think that,

00:07:34:03 - 00:07:35:02

Sebastian Öhmann

the topic of

00:07:35:02 - 00:07:37:13

Sebastian Öhmann

maybe in general data and top ability, but really

00:07:37:13 - 00:07:38:09

Sebastian Öhmann

data is

00:07:38:08 - 00:07:41:05

Sebastian Öhmann

aggregated in a lot of different places. And this could

00:07:41:05 - 00:07:43:02

Sebastian Öhmann

be then again here on the public sector,

00:07:43:07 - 00:07:46:00

Sebastian Öhmann

on, you know, any kind of climate information that

00:07:46:03 - 00:07:48:03

Sebastian Öhmann

state actors actually have. But then

00:07:48:03 - 00:07:50:07

Sebastian Öhmann

of course also in the private sector and

00:07:50:07 - 00:07:51:15

Sebastian Öhmann

information that,

00:07:51:15 - 00:07:53:12

Sebastian Öhmann

different companies actually have.

00:07:53:12 - 00:07:54:07

Sebastian Öhmann

So I think

00:07:54:07 - 00:07:54:14

Sebastian Öhmann

this

00:07:55:14 - 00:07:56:15

Sebastian Öhmann

issue of

00:07:56:15 - 00:08:00:15

Sebastian Öhmann

utilizing the data that already exists, bringing this together,

00:08:00:15 - 00:08:02:13

Sebastian Öhmann

this, for example, is also one

00:08:02:13 - 00:08:03:07

Sebastian Öhmann

topic where

00:08:03:07 - 00:08:05:04

Sebastian Öhmann

data value creation can

00:08:05:04 - 00:08:06:05

Sebastian Öhmann

really emphasized

00:08:06:05 - 00:08:07:07

Sebastian Öhmann

So bringing this back.

00:08:07:07 - 00:08:07:12

Sebastian Öhmann

again to

00:08:07:12 - 00:08:10:01

Sebastian Öhmann

the question of climate change data.

00:08:10:01 - 00:08:18:06

Sebastian Öhmann

Our teams recently conducted an assessment together in South Africa that I think was really informative and is really driving a lot of our thinking around this.

00:08:18:06 - 00:08:24:10

Sebastian Öhmann

Can you give us kind of an example of of data value creation there? So maybe some opportunities that you saw?

00:08:24:10 - 00:08:27:15

Sebastian Öhmann

this is actually one good example on how,

00:08:27:15 - 00:08:30:14

Sebastian Öhmann

you know, the data economy initiative of is it

00:08:30:14 - 00:08:31:05

Sebastian Öhmann

is

00:08:31:05 - 00:08:32:03

Sebastian Öhmann

pursuing

00:08:32:03 - 00:08:34:06

Sebastian Öhmann

this data value creation

00:08:34:06 - 00:08:36:03

Sebastian Öhmann

objective in a sense that

00:08:36:03 - 00:08:39:11

Sebastian Öhmann

relation to the use of, let's say climate focus, I mean E platform,

00:08:39:11 - 00:08:42:02

Sebastian Öhmann

South Africa is a good example where we

00:08:42:02 - 00:08:43:08

Sebastian Öhmann

assess together with

00:08:43:08 - 00:08:45:03

Sebastian Öhmann

different state actors

00:08:45:03 - 00:08:51:00

Sebastian Öhmann

on how to set up a basic data infrastructure in which climate data can be aggregated, analyzed

00:08:51:00 - 00:08:54:07

Sebastian Öhmann

and then shot and if suitable also be linked and shared with

00:08:54:07 - 00:08:57:04

Sebastian Öhmann

other actors such as the private sector, an NGO.

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Sebastian Öhmann

And this could provide more concrete assistance. For example,

00:09:01:15 - 00:09:04:05

Sebastian Öhmann

at the national level for reviewing

00:09:04:05 - 00:09:06:10

Sebastian Öhmann

national climate targets, the NDC

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Sebastian Öhmann

and even more concretely, let's say,

00:09:08:12 - 00:09:10:02

Sebastian Öhmann

the results

00:09:10:02 - 00:09:17:00

Sebastian Öhmann

inside different sectors such as the reduction of CO₂ and and therefore also promoting especially climate friendly

00:09:17:00 - 00:09:18:13

Sebastian Öhmann

project in various sectors. Right.

00:09:18:13 - 00:09:20:15

Sebastian Öhmann

this kind of approach of

00:09:20:15 - 00:09:21:13

Sebastian Öhmann

combining

00:09:21:13 - 00:09:23:05

Sebastian Öhmann

data infrastructure,

00:09:23:05 - 00:09:26:02

Sebastian Öhmann

bringing together different stakeholders that are

00:09:26:02 - 00:09:27:00

Sebastian Öhmann

key for

00:09:27:01 - 00:09:27:09

Sebastian Öhmann

climate

00:09:27:09 - 00:09:29:04

Sebastian Öhmann

actions, it's really

00:09:29:04 - 00:09:30:04

Sebastian Öhmann

useful

00:09:30:04 - 00:09:32:06

Sebastian Öhmann

then to link this with

00:09:32:06 - 00:09:34:15

Sebastian Öhmann

climate finance mechanism and investments because

00:09:34:15 - 00:09:36:02

Sebastian Öhmann

at the end of the day,

00:09:36:02 - 00:09:44:02

Sebastian Öhmann

such digital tools and such data platform can really enhance the transparency and effectiveness of of climate project and its results.

00:09:44:02 - 00:09:44:08

Sebastian Öhmann

And

00:09:44:08 - 00:09:46:15

Sebastian Öhmann

this is really one of the examples where,

00:09:46:15 - 00:09:48:05

Sebastian Öhmann

all different sectors,

00:09:48:05 - 00:09:50:01

Sebastian Öhmann

private and public sector

00:09:50:01 - 00:09:51:06

Sebastian Öhmann

should engage upon

00:09:51:06 - 00:09:53:03

Sebastian Öhmann

which is, you know, the sharing of,

00:09:53:02 - 00:09:53:14

Sebastian Öhmann

climate data

00:09:53:14 - 00:09:55:01

Sebastian Öhmann

creating value.

00:09:55:01 - 00:09:56:05

Sebastian Öhmann

Yeah, this sounds like

00:09:56:05 - 00:09:59:03

Sebastian Öhmann

a really good vision for the future

00:09:59:03 - 00:10:03:01

Sebastian Öhmann

how we would love things to look like to be able to provide governments with,

00:10:03:01 - 00:10:04:14

Sebastian Öhmann

this type of tool, these types of

00:10:04:14 - 00:10:06:15

Sebastian Öhmann

data to be able to make decisions.

00:10:06:15 - 00:10:07:05

Sebastian Öhmann

But

00:10:07:05 - 00:10:10:07

Sebastian Öhmann

as I like to say, if it were easy, we would have already done it right.

00:10:10:07 - 00:10:11:00

Sebastian Öhmann

So

00:10:11:00 - 00:10:13:00

Sebastian Öhmann

let me share maybe some of the

00:10:13:00 - 00:10:18:07

Sebastian Öhmann

challenges that we've been finding. And I'd love for you to to also add in here.

00:10:18:08 - 00:10:19:02

Sebastian Öhmann

know, as I

00:10:19:02 - 00:10:26:15

Sebastian Öhmann

kind of hinted at before, there's still no really clear definition of what constitutes climate finance and therefore

00:10:26:15 - 00:10:28:11

Sebastian Öhmann

what is climate finance data.

00:10:28:11 - 00:10:31:09

Sebastian Öhmann

And we don't have a lot in terms of data standards yet.

00:10:31:10 - 00:10:32:06

Sebastian Öhmann

The OECD

00:10:32:06 - 00:10:35:11

Sebastian Öhmann

has done some work here, I think, in releasing some data

00:10:35:11 - 00:10:37:09

Sebastian Öhmann

that is around this topic.

00:10:37:09 - 00:10:38:00

Sebastian Öhmann

But

00:10:38:00 - 00:10:41:10

Sebastian Öhmann

it's a bit too retrospective for countries to use in real time.

00:10:41:10 - 00:10:43:01

Sebastian Öhmann

On top of that,

00:10:43:01 - 00:10:48:00

Sebastian Öhmann

as we've been saying, to make climate finance data really interesting and really usable,

00:10:48:00 - 00:10:51:14

Sebastian Öhmann

you really need to bring in other types of data alongside it to make it useful.

00:10:51:14 - 00:10:53:02

Sebastian Öhmann

Everything from,

00:10:53:02 - 00:10:57:14

Sebastian Öhmann

you know, historical, scientific climate data, emissions data,

00:10:57:14 - 00:11:01:08

Sebastian Öhmann

and the results of the climate finance investments that have already been made.

00:11:01:08 - 00:11:04:12

Sebastian Öhmann

We need to know what's working and what's not working

00:11:04:12 - 00:11:06:02

Sebastian Öhmann

at the country level.

00:11:06:02 - 00:11:07:09

Sebastian Öhmann

This data is

00:11:07:09 - 00:11:09:10

Sebastian Öhmann

being held across probably

00:11:09:10 - 00:11:18:07

Sebastian Öhmann

dozens of databases. If I'm being conservative, and they're across probably every government institution since climate change touches on every sector.

00:11:18:07 - 00:11:23:00

Sebastian Öhmann

So here is where this question of data interoperable becomes really critical.

00:11:23:00 - 00:11:25:03

Sebastian Öhmann

How can we identify

00:11:25:03 - 00:11:25:10

Sebastian Öhmann

the

00:11:25:10 - 00:11:28:14

Sebastian Öhmann

systems that have this data? And who even has the data sets?

00:11:28:14 - 00:11:29:08

Sebastian Öhmann

And then

00:11:29:08 - 00:11:32:05

Sebastian Öhmann

add on to all of the has a huge resource gap.

00:11:32:05 - 00:11:34:12

Sebastian Öhmann

How do you prioritize with limited resources?

00:11:34:12 - 00:11:38:05

Sebastian Öhmann

The vision of integrating, you know, 100 data systems? It's great,

00:11:38:05 - 00:11:39:14

Sebastian Öhmann

but we're finding that

00:11:39:14 - 00:11:41:10

Sebastian Öhmann

even at some level,

00:11:41:10 - 00:11:45:11

Sebastian Öhmann

there's not even the human resources available to digitize

00:11:45:11 - 00:11:46:14

Sebastian Öhmann

historical data.

00:11:46:14 - 00:11:48:00

Sebastian Öhmann

And there's heaps of it.

00:11:48:00 - 00:11:49:00

Sebastian Öhmann

piles really.

00:11:49:00 - 00:11:49:11

Sebastian Öhmann

So

00:11:49:11 - 00:11:51:14

Sebastian Öhmann

these challenges are really

00:11:51:14 - 00:11:58:14

Sebastian Öhmann

going to inhibit this work and really, I think, make a case for investments in digital infrastructure.

00:11:58:15 - 00:12:00:05

Sebastian Öhmann

What else did you find? Sebastian?

00:12:00:08 - 00:12:07:15

Sebastian Öhmann

first I would say that you really touched on on a lot of the quite important topics in relation to,

00:12:07:15 - 00:12:16:15

Sebastian Öhmann

you know, there's a lot of data out there, but actually how can we utilize this? How can we bring all the most important stakeholders together

00:12:16:15 - 00:12:18:10

Sebastian Öhmann

and how can we also,

00:12:18:10 - 00:12:23:00

Sebastian Öhmann

achieve result based financing mechanism where there's

00:12:23:00 - 00:12:27:15

Sebastian Öhmann

investments in the right sector which can then be implemented also in the long term?

00:12:27:15 - 00:12:30:13

Sebastian Öhmann

Because I would also say that there might be

00:12:30:13 - 00:12:33:07

Sebastian Öhmann

climate investments right now, but

00:12:33:07 - 00:12:35:06

Sebastian Öhmann

it's very important that they

00:12:35:06 - 00:12:37:11

Sebastian Öhmann

always rely on some kind of,

00:12:37:11 - 00:12:44:00

Sebastian Öhmann

monitoring aspect or something where you can be sure that the impact is actually being made

00:12:44:00 - 00:12:47:07

Sebastian Öhmann

on the ground, for example, in other partner countries.

00:12:47:07 - 00:12:54:08

Sebastian Öhmann

And what I maybe would like to add on that is, you know, the policy side of things, because on the one side I would say that

00:12:54:08 - 00:12:59:09

Sebastian Öhmann

we can really utilize different technical solutions, you know,

00:12:59:09 - 00:13:02:05

Sebastian Öhmann

bringing together databases, building like

00:13:02:05 - 00:13:08:15

Sebastian Öhmann

a cloud something or just a platform where you can actually analyze and aggregate all the most important data.

00:13:08:15 - 00:13:12:00

Sebastian Öhmann

But I think that this should always be based on

00:13:12:00 - 00:13:15:07

Sebastian Öhmann

concrete policies. Right. And I think that there's still

00:13:15:07 - 00:13:22:01

Sebastian Öhmann

lack on on policies. And in the digital sphere and then also on the climate sphere. And I think that,

00:13:22:01 - 00:13:25:02

Sebastian Öhmann

for example, data sharing agreements is something

00:13:25:02 - 00:13:26:15

Sebastian Öhmann

more concrete. We are

00:13:26:15 - 00:13:28:08

Sebastian Öhmann

There still has to be.

00:13:28:08 - 00:13:29:12

Sebastian Öhmann

a lot of work to

00:13:29:12 - 00:13:30:08

Sebastian Öhmann

done.

00:13:30:09 - 00:13:40:11

Sebastian Öhmann

I agree with you. And I think this is the. The work that is often underestimated by a lot of people who don't work in the digital transformation space,

00:13:40:11 - 00:13:42:02

Sebastian Öhmann

that they tend to think that

00:13:42:02 - 00:13:46:02

Sebastian Öhmann

the digital tool element, like building the software, that that's the hardest part.

00:13:46:02 - 00:13:54:00

Sebastian Öhmann

In reality, a lot of times the hardest part is just getting ministries to agree to something as simple as how often they will share data and in what way they're going to do it.

00:13:54:00 - 00:13:59:10

Sebastian Öhmann

Yeah, definitely. And that's also where I think, you know, development cooperation can actually be

00:13:59:10 - 00:14:00:08

Sebastian Öhmann

a catalyst for

00:14:00:08 - 00:14:02:00

Sebastian Öhmann

climate action in the sense that

00:14:02:00 - 00:14:05:13

Sebastian Öhmann

development cooperation has the potential to really bring

00:14:05:13 - 00:14:07:09

Sebastian Öhmann

important stakeholders

00:14:07:09 - 00:14:09:11

Sebastian Öhmann

on the table and really

00:14:09:11 - 00:14:12:15

Sebastian Öhmann

build out solutions and policy that

00:14:12:15 - 00:14:13:11

Sebastian Öhmann

can then,

00:14:13:11 - 00:14:16:14

Sebastian Öhmann

support this global challenge that we are facing right now,

00:14:16:14 - 00:14:17:08

Sebastian Öhmann

which is

00:14:17:08 - 00:14:18:03

Sebastian Öhmann

climate change.

00:14:18:03 - 00:14:19:13

Sebastian Öhmann

Because at the end of the day, also

00:14:19:13 - 00:14:25:10

Sebastian Öhmann

climate change is a it's a global problem. Right. And I think it's very much important that we can

00:14:25:10 - 00:14:26:13

Sebastian Öhmann

have some kind

00:14:26:13 - 00:14:33:06

Sebastian Öhmann

basis for, you know, expertise sharing and and really aligning

00:14:33:06 - 00:14:36:13

Sebastian Öhmann

on different topics where we can then support each other.

00:14:37:02 - 00:14:40:09

Sebastian Öhmann

I feel like one of the interesting questions here is

00:14:40:09 - 00:14:43:08

Sebastian Öhmann

in the face of this really overwhelming challenge,

00:14:43:08 - 00:14:46:01

Sebastian Öhmann

in the face of limited resources,

00:14:46:01 - 00:14:47:02

Sebastian Öhmann

knowing that

00:14:47:02 - 00:14:48:08

Sebastian Öhmann

there's always competition

00:14:48:08 - 00:14:51:00

Sebastian Öhmann

funding and for what we want to address.

00:14:51:00 - 00:14:53:01

Sebastian Öhmann

Why digital infrastructure

00:14:53:01 - 00:14:53:14

Sebastian Öhmann

when

00:14:53:14 - 00:14:56:15

Sebastian Öhmann

it's not the let's say it's not the sexiest investment,

00:14:56:15 - 00:14:58:10

Sebastian Öhmann

How do we make this case

00:14:58:10 - 00:15:03:04

Sebastian Öhmann

for digital infrastructure? It's something that DG and GZ care quite a bit about.

00:15:03:08 - 00:15:06:01

Sebastian Öhmann

that's actually a really important question,

00:15:06:01 - 00:15:07:13

Sebastian Öhmann

and I would emphasize that

00:15:07:13 - 00:15:09:02

Sebastian Öhmann

in terms of, you know,

00:15:09:02 - 00:15:10:09

Sebastian Öhmann

data infrastructure project,

00:15:10:09 - 00:15:13:10

Sebastian Öhmann

the focus is really we need to bring

00:15:13:10 - 00:15:14:10

Sebastian Öhmann

pragmatic

00:15:14:10 - 00:15:15:12

Sebastian Öhmann

values to it, right?

00:15:15:12 - 00:15:17:02

Sebastian Öhmann

data infrastructure

00:15:17:02 - 00:15:19:15

Sebastian Öhmann

can only be combined with concrete

00:15:19:15 - 00:15:22:05

Sebastian Öhmann

climate action if there's a use

00:15:22:05 - 00:15:23:14

Sebastian Öhmann

for and if it can, you know,

00:15:23:14 - 00:15:25:01

Sebastian Öhmann

better the life

00:15:25:01 - 00:15:25:11

Sebastian Öhmann

of people

00:15:25:11 - 00:15:29:09

Sebastian Öhmann

for example, the point of many platforms

00:15:29:09 - 00:15:34:01

Sebastian Öhmann

and those kind of data infrastructures, I think those can be quite

00:15:34:01 - 00:15:38:08

Sebastian Öhmann

interesting in the sense that you can actually see what kind of,

00:15:38:08 - 00:15:41:07

Sebastian Öhmann

activities can bring actual value

00:15:41:07 - 00:15:42:05

Sebastian Öhmann

for people

00:15:42:05 - 00:15:44:10

Sebastian Öhmann

a sense that data infrastructure

00:15:44:10 - 00:15:44:15

Sebastian Öhmann

can be

00:15:44:15 - 00:15:45:15

Sebastian Öhmann

utilized

00:15:45:15 - 00:15:48:00

Sebastian Öhmann

to, you know, minimize greenwashing,

00:15:48:00 - 00:15:48:13

Sebastian Öhmann

example.

00:15:48:13 - 00:15:50:10

Sebastian Öhmann

that would be an impact that it is

00:15:50:10 - 00:15:51:09

Sebastian Öhmann

quite needed

00:15:51:09 - 00:15:53:01

Sebastian Öhmann

for concrete climate actions.

00:15:53:01 - 00:15:58:10

Sebastian Öhmann

Yeah, I think you started to touch on some of the risks If we don't take this challenge

00:15:58:10 - 00:15:59:11

Sebastian Öhmann

really seriously,

00:15:59:11 - 00:16:02:12

Sebastian Öhmann

I think the one of greenwashing is a really important one.

00:16:02:12 - 00:16:09:11

Sebastian Öhmann

we have a lot of, you know, funders, partners, private sector, public sector. Everybody's making different commitments. We're we're moving into

00:16:09:11 - 00:16:10:10

Sebastian Öhmann

the next cop meeting.

00:16:10:10 - 00:16:12:13

Sebastian Öhmann

There's going to be a lot of people saying that

00:16:12:13 - 00:16:17:02

Sebastian Öhmann

they're going to be committed to doing X, Y, and Z and funding X, Y, and Z.

00:16:17:02 - 00:16:22:13

Sebastian Öhmann

It's going to be impossible for us to actually hold these stakeholders accountable if we don't have the data behind it,

00:16:22:13 - 00:16:26:12

Sebastian Öhmann

if we're not able to actually compare what they said they were going to do with what they actually did.

00:16:26:12 - 00:16:32:01

Sebastian Öhmann

And we need to know whether we need to double down on certain efforts or abandon ones that aren't working.

00:16:32:01 - 00:16:34:02

Sebastian Öhmann

What else do you think are some of the big risks here?

00:16:34:07 - 00:16:42:14

Sebastian Öhmann

so in terms of the risks, I would say that on the one hand, you know, I would say that there's a risk that climate measures are currently not being implemented actually quickly enough

00:16:42:14 - 00:16:43:12

Sebastian Öhmann

simply because

00:16:43:12 - 00:16:46:05

Sebastian Öhmann

the issue of climate change is more important than ever.

00:16:46:05 - 00:16:48:14

Sebastian Öhmann

And, you know, we are we are kind of running out of time,

00:16:48:14 - 00:16:52:01

Sebastian Öhmann

especially in terms of, you know, tipping points in the climate system.

00:16:52:05 - 00:16:55:04

Sebastian Öhmann

So I think that, for example, data infrastructure and just

00:16:55:04 - 00:16:57:13

Sebastian Öhmann

climate data is more important than ever

00:16:57:13 - 00:17:00:06

Sebastian Öhmann

because that should be the foundation for,

00:17:00:06 - 00:17:05:01

Sebastian Öhmann

implementing concrete climate action. And this climate data could actually be

00:17:05:01 - 00:17:06:06

Sebastian Öhmann

utilized for

00:17:06:06 - 00:17:07:13

Sebastian Öhmann

implementing climate action

00:17:07:13 - 00:17:11:11

Sebastian Öhmann

and then be money taught. And there can be then, you know, concrete results.

00:17:11:11 - 00:17:14:13

Sebastian Öhmann

we can match certain find the financial investments with.

00:17:14:13 - 00:17:21:00

Sebastian Öhmann

furthermore, I think that we should, you know, continue to plan for the long term and with this in mind, also integrate,

00:17:21:00 - 00:17:27:00

Sebastian Öhmann

regulation that emphasizes the need for digitalization in key areas. Because I really believe that

00:17:27:00 - 00:17:29:02

Sebastian Öhmann

this offers a great opportunity

00:17:29:02 - 00:17:30:13

Sebastian Öhmann

to counteract the various risks

00:17:30:13 - 00:17:33:04

Sebastian Öhmann

that climate change. Yeah, really intense.

00:17:33:04 - 00:17:40:04

Sebastian Öhmann

All right. So now we've we sounded the alarm a little bit. Sebastian. You know, hopefully we've we've gotten people's attention.

00:17:40:04 - 00:17:43:06

Sebastian Öhmann

What do you want people to take away from our discussion today?

00:17:43:07 - 00:17:45:04

Sebastian Öhmann

one important aspect is, you know, that

00:17:45:04 - 00:17:49:14

Sebastian Öhmann

long term cooperation between public and private actors are really crucial

00:17:49:14 - 00:17:51:14

Sebastian Öhmann

for the implementation of climate measures.

00:17:51:14 - 00:17:55:12

Sebastian Öhmann

And I would also emphasize, you know, the in general the importance of

00:17:55:12 - 00:17:58:00

Sebastian Öhmann

leveraging digital technologies. And

00:17:58:00 - 00:18:01:00

Sebastian Öhmann

the use cases that we have right now

00:18:01:00 - 00:18:02:01

Sebastian Öhmann

combination

00:18:02:01 - 00:18:02:07

Sebastian Öhmann

with

00:18:02:07 - 00:18:04:02

Sebastian Öhmann

policy support, because I think that

00:18:04:02 - 00:18:06:14

Sebastian Öhmann

development cooperation can really be a catalyst for

00:18:06:14 - 00:18:08:07

Sebastian Öhmann

better international engagement

00:18:08:07 - 00:18:10:00

Sebastian Öhmann

on this global challenge of

00:18:10:00 - 00:18:10:14

Sebastian Öhmann

climate change.

00:18:11:01 - 00:18:12:11

Sebastian Öhmann

on development, gateway side,

00:18:12:11 - 00:18:15:11

Sebastian Öhmann

we want to continue together with Jay-Z

00:18:15:11 - 00:18:20:06

Sebastian Öhmann

banging the drum on data and system interoperability at the country level.

00:18:20:06 - 00:18:21:02

Sebastian Öhmann

We want

00:18:21:02 - 00:18:24:02

Sebastian Öhmann

funders and governments to work to invest more in

00:18:24:02 - 00:18:27:15

Sebastian Öhmann

country level systems that plug into existing sectorial thinking

00:18:27:15 - 00:18:30:07

Sebastian Öhmann

and systems that keep interoperability at the forefront.

00:18:30:07 - 00:18:36:04

Sebastian Öhmann

it's important for us not to make standalone systems that don't work with one another, that can't communicate with one another.

00:18:36:04 - 00:18:41:02

Sebastian Öhmann

And with this in mind, we think we can push for better monitoring and evaluation for climate funding

00:18:41:02 - 00:18:47:10

Sebastian Öhmann

using these country level systems as a tool to facilitate our understanding of how these investments can make a difference.

00:18:47:12 - 00:18:50:04

Sebastian Öhmann

Thank you so much. Great discussing with you.

00:18:53:09 - 00:18:56:00

Vanessa Goas

Thanks for listening. And a special thanks to our guest

00:18:56:00 - 00:19:15:08

Vanessa Goas

and to our producers behind the scenes. This episode was produced by Becca Warner and edited by Annalisa Goodman. Our theme music was created by Marc Hatcher. Learn more about development, Gateway and IRA expansion on our website at [Development Gateway dot org](https://DevelopmentGateway.org) or through social media. And don't forget to subscribe to data for what on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or Stitcher?