La Quadrature du Net

2023 Annual Report

Summary : The context in which we work has continued to deteriorate over the last years: **increased surveillance and data collection and retention**, particularly against activists; **threats to encryption and to the protection of communications**, in the context of European discussions on the Child Sexual Abuse Regulation (CSAR) and the so-called "December 8" case; efforts to legalise new surveillance technologies such as **AI-powered videosurveillance** (VSA) and **facial recognition** (the law on the Olympics has made VSA experimentations legal for the first time in Europe); the **desire to strengthen online censorship**, through the discussions on the bill "to secure and regulate the digital space" or during the July uprisings in France following the death of a teenager killed by a police officer.

In this context, we have continued our campaigning and awareness-raising activities, our institutional advocacy work, our on-the-ground action and our strategic litigation, focusing on three main issues: surveillance and police control technologies, the use of scoring algorithms by public authorities and the defence of the right to encryption. Here is a summary of these activities for 2023.

I. Progress on our main objectives for 2023

I.1. Surveillance and law enforcement technologies

In 2023, we made some progress towards our goal of documenting the use of artificial intelligence-based police surveillance technologies and exposing their dangers, with the aim of getting them banned. In order to shed light on these surveillance and control technologies, and after many months of investigation (supported by the UK-based organisation Fair Trials), we published a **report on the state of predictive policing in France[1]**. It compiles available data on various predictive policing systems that are used or have been used by the French police. We hope that the publication in early 2024 of this report, which points out the dangers of these systems when they include socio-demographic data in their recommendations and calls for them to be banned, will help to raise this issue in the public debate.

During the year, we also wanted to highlight the **dangers of AI-powered videosurveillance and biometric surveillance**, as part of a **campaign against the law on the Olympic Games in France**. The latter was discussed in the Senate and National Assembly in early 2023 with, among other things, the aim in its Article 7 of making the experimentation of AI-powered videosurveillance technologies legal, before the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, during them and until March 2025. We therefore launched a campaign in January 2023, as well as extensive advocacy work (see below, Part II on our modes of action). The latter focused on the production of both a **technical and political paper on automated surveillance[2]**, pointing out that AI-powered videosurveillance is mass biometric surveillance. This report was sent to all members of the French Parliament. We were also invited to a number of hearings by MPs. In spite of this, the law was passed in March, making France the first European country to legalise such biometric surveillance. However, many of our arguments were taken up in the debates by various MPs, and we were also able to "impose" our terms in the debate, with our terminology of "AI-powered videosurveillance" being taken up by many journalists and becoming the main term used in the media, instead of the classic "intelligent videosurveillance" preferred by the CNIL and the government in particular.

But we also had some concrete results, for example in the context of a **litigation launched in 2021 against the use of AI-powered audio-surveillance (ASA) microphones** linked to videosurveillance in the French city of Orléans. In September 2023, the CNIL found this pairing illegal, partially agreeing with us, but without going as far as to rule that AI-powered audio-surveillance is by itself illegal.

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1   https://www.laquadrature.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/01/20240118_LQDN_policepredictive.pdf (in French).

2   https://www.laquadrature.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/02/Dossier-VSA-2-LQDN.pdf (in French).

Finally, we have started working on a litigation strategy to make these surveillance systems transparent. That work should be completed in 2024. On these issues, we continue to build and maintain fructious alliances with various collectives, first and foremost with the Technopolice Marseille collective, which we supported in the organisation of their second Technopolice festival in September, but also with French collectives opposed to the Olympics such as Saccage 2024.

I.2. Scoring algorithm in social administrations

This year has also allowed us to make progress on the issue of *scoring* algorithms in social administrations, which we also want to draw attention to in order to call for their ban. After an extensive documentation work that began at the beginning of 2022, we were able to **publish in November the information gathered**: we launched a general page on *scoring* algorithms[3] as well as a page focusing on the algorithm used by the Caisse nationale d'allocations familiales (CNAF, the family branch of the French welfare system)[4] and a page on which we began to list possible actions to fight these systems[5]. We also published an **analysis of the source code of CAF's algorithm**[6] (at least of the older versions that CAF was willing to share with us after months of struggle on our part). CAF's reactions were swift, and we responded[7] in an article prepared in December but published in early January. Following these publications, we received extensive press coverage and elected representatives from the CNIL, the Défenseur des droits and the département of Seine-Saint-Denis raised their concerns.

Again, we have started to work on a **litigation strategy** aiming to have access to the source code of these algorithms - or, as a fallback, the complete list of their criteria and associated weights - and we have begun collecting all the the legal framework for these processes and the personal data they process.

On the subject of algorithms used by social administrations, we are maintaining the productive relationships we developed in 2022 with the Changer de Cap and Stop Contrôles collectives, and we have forged new alliances with the Droits Sociaux collective, as well as with various social science researchers. We also had very fruitful discussions with the Défenseur des droits throughout the year, and co-organised a series of conferences with Le Mouton numérique[8] at the beginning of the year on dematerialisation and the use of algorithms in administrations and public services.

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3   https://www.laquadrature.net/en/fight-against-algorithmic-social-control/
4   https://www.laquadrature.net/en/caf-generalized-rating-of-beneficiaries/
5   https://www.laquadrature.net/demande-ton-score/ (in French).
6   https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2023/11/27/scoring-of-welfare-beneficiaries-the-indecency-of-cafs-algorithm-now-undeniable/
7   https://www.laquadrature.net/2024/01/11/notation-des-allocataires-face-aux-faits-la-caf-senferme-dans-le-deni-et-la-mauvaise-foi/ (in French).
8   https://mouton-numerique.org/dematerialiser-pour-mieux-regner/ (in French).

I.3. Defending the right to encryption

On the issues of state surveillance and the right to have private communications, we worked on two aspects this year: following up on the "8 December" case and denouncing the repression of activists.

We have been closely following the **trial of the so-called "8 December" case**, in which seven people have been charged with "association de malfaiteurs terroristes" (terrorist criminal association). To build the case of a terrorist plot, the DGSI intelligence services in charge of the judicial investigation, the National Anti-Terrorist Prosecutor's Office (PNAT) and then the examining magistrate exploited the fact that the defendants used tools to protect their privacy and encrypt their communications on a daily basis. Faced with this unprecedented attack on the right to encryption and the protection of communications, we documented the case extensively, publishing an initial article in June[9], before following the trial[10] and analysing the encryption-related aspects[11]. The press coverage we were able to obtain was again quite good, but the outcome of the trial was not, as the judges followed the prosecution's accusations despite the lack of evidence of a terrorist plot.

In relation to these issues of state surveillance, we have also begun a broader work on the surveillance of activists, and in December we published an article on the new surveillance technologies being tested on environmental activists[12]. This work is still in its early stages and we are preparing a roadmap to move forward on this issue in 2024.

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9 https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2023/06/05/criminalization-of-encryption-the-8-december-case/
10 https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2023/10/06/the-beginning-of-the-8-december-trial-is-also-the-judgement-of-the-right-to-privacy-and-encryption/
11 https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2023/12/15/encryption-discussion-during-the-8-december-trial-from-myth-to-reality/
12 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/12/19/lactivisme-ecologiste-nouveau-terrain-dexperimentation-de-la-technopolice/ (in French).

II. Operating procedures, main actions and results

II.1. Campaigns and awareness-raising

In 2021 we stated in a funding agreement that "[La Quadrature] *believes that the effectiveness of these* [advocacy] *actions is currently fairly limited. It therefore wishes to extend its actions towards empowering citizens and helping them to make their voices heard".*

For example, we launched a major **campaign against the Olympic Games French law**, mentioned above (see part I.1). We tried to alert people to the dangers of this law in terms of surveillance and data filing, and to give them the tools to react. We published numerous articles and an awareness-raising video on the dangers of the VSA[13], we also had a strong presence on social media and launched an email and phone calls campaign towards the members of French Parliament via a campaign page on our website[14]. We also co-organised the publication of an open letter in *Le Monde*, signed by 38 international organisations and denouncing the dangers of this law and its Article 7[15]. Even though the law has passed, we can see that the subject is now fairly well known to the general public, that we have had a pretty good press coverage (which continues to this day) and that La Quadrature's status as an expert on issues relating to surveillance technologies has been confirmed.

The other major highlight of the year was our **annual fundraising campaign**, in line with the theme of the 2022 campaign which presented an overview of La Quadrature's actions since its creation in 2008. For this year, we wanted to insist on the **main issues we plan to work on for 2024**: the right to encryption and the protection of our communications, the fight against social scoring algorithms, the regulation of platforms and the promotion of interoperability, and the links between ecology and digital technology[16]. We also presented briefly the other issues on which we are likely to be called upon to work (VSA and the Olympic Games, "predictive policing", artificial intelligence, etc.). This fundraising campaign took place from mid-November to the end of December, and was essentially based on a donation page presenting these four themes and on a set of visuals and quotes from our articles. This campaign was supported by a very regular presence on social networks and by various thematic publications, in particular on control algorithms (mentioned above) and

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13 https://video.lqdn.fr/w/wB6M6CHdfpWXpozVnqjbde (in French).

14 https://www.laquadrature.net/biometrie-jo/ (in French).

15 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/03/07/38-organisations-internationales-contre-la-surveillance-biometrique/ and the paper in *Le Monde*'s website : https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2023/03/06/les-mesures-de-videosurveillance-algorithmique-introduites-par-la-loi-jo-2024-sont-contraires-au-droit-international_6164276_3232.html (in French).

16 https://www.laquadrature.net/en/support/

interoperability[17].

The year was also punctuated by "lighter" sequences, already mentioned above: we took advantage of the donation campaign to develop a sequence on *scoring* **algorithms in public administrations**, made possible by the solid documentation we have been able to gather since 2022 (see above, part I.2). La Quadrature is now recognised as an expert on this subject and we are increasingly in demand, whether from the press, public decision-makers or civil society. Our work caused a certain uneasyness within the CAF, which launched a crisis communication campaign following our publications.

 We also **worked to raise awareness of the need to protect encryption,** with the publication of several articles on the "8 December" case[18] and a close monitoring of the trial on social media (see section I.3 above). As the judgement was handed down very recently, we are still working on the analysis its political impact . The trial also opened up new avenues for our work on the technical means of state surveillance of political activists.

Generally speaking, **these communication sequences involve a great deal of work, but they are vital to our actions and our objectives**: they help to alert the public and to establish our association ever more firmly in the media and political landscape, while enabling those who wish to do so to take action with us. Finally, these campaigns are also a way of giving weight to our advocacy actions.

II.2. Advocacy activities

Even **though it is often difficult to make ourselves heard by members of Parliament, we are continuing our advocacy work**. We felt this was crucial in the **context of the Olympic Games law**, particularly when we noticed that members of French Parliament were completely unfamiliar with the issues surrounding the VSA. We therefore produced a **technical and political paper on the VSA**, which we distributed widely (see point I.1 above). We were heard by both the rapporteurs and opposition MPs and senators, and **many of our arguments were taken up by various elected representatives**, particularly from the opposition. As part of this process, we also launched a petition against Article 7 of the law, aimed at elected representatives, which was signed by 355 of them[19].

In the same way, we worked on a series of pleas concerning the project law **to secure and regulate digital space (SREN)**: publication of articles[20], hearings by the special committees on the project law in

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17   https://www.laquadrature.net/interop/ (in French).
18   See footnotes 15, 16 and 17.
19 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/02/22/petition-des-elu%c2%b7es-francais%c2%b7es-contre-la-videosurveillance-algorithmique-de-la-loi-jo/ (in French).
20   See here: https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/12/projet-de-loi-sren-le-gouvernement-sourd-a-la-realite-dinternet/ ;
       https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/19/projet-de-loi-sren-et-acces-au-porno-

the Senate and the National Assembly, work on **amendments on interoperability which were taken up** by the Ecologist party, La France Insoumise (left wing) and Modem (right center) groups in the National Assembly[21]. Unfortunately none of these amendments were adopted.

At European level, we supported the work done by the EDRi network on two texts under discussion: the **Child Sexual Abuse Regulation (CSAR)** and the **Artificial Intelligence Act (AIA)**, as well as their plea for a **ban on facial recognition[22]**. Regarding the CSAR, we essentially relayed EDRi's work and communication, and signed a number of openletters[23], for lack of sufficient human resources and energy to launch any action of our own. We did, however, publish an article providing an in-depth analysis of the dangers of this text which, under the laudable objective of protecting minors in their online browsing, seeked to establish widespread surveillance of online connections and communications[24].On the AIA, we followedEDRi's campaigning and lobbying work , and signed their open letters on surveillance technologies in this draft regulation[25].

Still on the subject of advocacy, we also answeredto a **consultation by the CNIL on the issue of remote e-proctoring of school exams**, in January 2023. This work is part of a long-term dynamic and has yet to be made visible. Our response to this consultation pointed out the various political reasons for rejecting such remote e-proctoring tools for (inrrusive, discriminatory and dehumanising technologies) and developed the legal arguments against most remote surveillance.

Generally speaking, **we are still finding it very difficult to make our voice heard by elected representatives at both French and European levels, but we feel it is crucial not to abandon this field of work**. We are therefore combining it with our campaigns and our work to raise public awareness. The combination of these two strands seems to be bearing some fruit, whether it's against automated videosurveillance (Olympic Games law) or to regulate the digital space through the concept of interoperability of social networks (SREN law). Of course, none of this was enough to prevent the adoption of the Olympic Games law or to get our amendments adopted in the SREN law. However, the SREN bill is still under discussion and we are continuing our efforts.

identifier-les-internautes-ne-resoudra-rien/ ; https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/10/05/projet-de-loi-sren-et-filtre-anti-arnaque-les-navigateurs-comme-auxiliaires-de-police/ (in French).

21 See a summary of the amendments tabled by the Greens here: https://www.laquadrature.net/interop/#partC2d (in French).

22 https://edri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Global-statement-Stop-facial-recognition-now.pdf

23 https://edri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Statement-to-EU-countries-Do-not-agree-to-mass-surveillance-proposal-warn-NGOs.pdf

24 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/18/reglement-csar-la-surveillance-de-nos-communications-se-joue-maintenant-a-bruxelles/ (in French).

25 https://edri.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Regulate-police-technology-EU-AI-Act-Statement-19-September.pdf or https://edri.org/our-work/ngos-and-experts-warn-ai-act-negotiators-dont-trade-our-rights/

II.3. In the field

To encourage the development of our modes of action and the diversity of actions launched by local individuals and groups in the Technopolice campaign, we also organised or participated in various "street" actions: we supported the organisation by the Technopolice Marseille group of a second **Technopolice Marseille Festival**, in September 2023, with this year's focus on police violence and other issues of the Olympic Games[26]. Organised over four days and three different venues, this year's festival welcomed around 300 people to various events: screenings, debates, walks, games and workshops on concrete actions, etc.

Also in Marseille, a **workshop was organised to "tool up" the local fight against surveillance**[27]. From biometric records and facial recognition to predictive policing and algorithmic video surveillance, this police surveillance in the streets is directly linked to the systemic racism associated with police domination in working-class neighborhoods of the city. Against this backdrop, the aim of this meeting was to pool knowledge and experience in this area before looking at ways of taking joint action to resist it.

In January, we also organised at the Flèche d'Or in Paris[28] a **festive evening against the exceptional surveillance** policy set up for the 2024 Olympics, to organise the fight against these Olympics and against the trivialisation of surveillance in our lives. We also took part in a number of actions with the French Saccage 2024 collective, including an anti-Olympic rally in December, and several **evenings in support of the people charged on 8 December** to discuss the issue of encryption. These occasions were all very rich in encounters and enabled us to make contacts on various subjects.

II.4. Litigation

Finally, the **last major aspect of our modes of action remains strategic litigation**. We now have solid expertise in this area, and although our various appeals have much too often disappointing legal outcomes, they **clearly enable** us to **raise certain issues in the public debate**. This was the case this year with appeals against the decree implementing the law passed in 2022 to authorise the use of drones by police forces[29] or against automated audio surveillance (ASA) in Orléans. Nonetheless, we can point to some concrete results in our case against ASA in Orléans, since following our appeal the CNIL declared this surveillance to be illegal[30].

In terms of the **development of our litigation strategy**, we have been warning for some time about the lack of independence of the

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26 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/18/festival-technopolice-2023-marseille-edition-2/ (in French).
27 https://technopolice.fr/blog/atelier-sur-la-surveillance-policiere-dans-les-quartiers-marseille-18-novembre-2023/ (in French).
28 https://technopolice.fr/blog/j-o-securitaires-letau-se-resserre/ (in French).
29 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/05/10/tout-le-monde-deteste-les-drones/.
30 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/30/audiosurveillance-algorithmique-a-orleans-la-cnil-donne-raison-a-la-quadrature-sur-lillegalite-du-dispositif/.

Conseil d'Etat[31], and have directed some of our litigation accordingly: this is particularly true of our latest case against drones, **which we hope to take to the European level before the CJEU**.

This desire to europeanise our legal litigation strategy in order to bypass national limits is also reflected in a litigation we launched with a coalition of European NGOs against the European Regulation on addressing the dissemination of terrorist content online[32]. Although, for procedural reasons, we have still had to refer the matter to the Conseil d'État, we are asking it to refer the case to the CJEU, the only body authorised to rule that a European regulation is illegal. While we have often lodged appeals with other French organisations, at both national and European level, this is our first attempt at a European litigation coalition.

Litigation in progress in 2023

* **Action against Hadopi** before the Conseil d'État, preliminary question (QPJ) submitted in August 2019, transmitted to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in June 2021; hearing before the CJEU in July 2022, opinion of the Advocate General in October 2022 => new hearing in plenary on 15 and 16 May 2023 and opinion of the Advocate General in September 2023; publication of a joint analysis with EDRi in the European Law Blog in December[33]. The judgment of the CJEU is expected at the end of April 2024.

* **Appeal against the VSA in Marseille**: full appeal before the Marseille Administrative Court (TA), filed in Dec. 2021, investigation closed => the public hearing took place in May, the TA rejected our appeal. We lodged an appeal, which is still being examined.

* the city's defence **against the noise sensors in orléans** (asa) before the orléans administrative court (ta), filed in december 2021, [34] was quite dishonest and in December 2022, we filed a reply to the municipality's defence => in September 2023, the CNIL ruled on this issue, declaring the use of automated **audio surveillance coupled with video surveillance** to be illegal[35] ; Following this, we submitted a new brief to the Administrative Court in October 2023, before responding to the municipality's arguments in early 2024.

* **An appeal against video surveillance in Moirans** was lodged with the Grenoble Administrative Court in February 2021. The case was closed in February 2024, with a public hearing to follow.

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31 See, in particular, this speech given by one of our lawyers at a conference at the end of 2022: https://lesaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SAF-SM-SNJ-Univ-III-Bastien-LE-QUERREC-Le-ro%CC%82le-du-Conseil-dEtat.pdf (in French).
32 https://www.laquadrature.net/en/2023/11/09/a-coalition-of-6-organisations-takes-eus-dangerous-terrorist-content-regulation-to-court/
33 https://europeanlawblog.eu/2023/12/04/a-complete-u-turn-in-jurisprudence-hadopi-and-the-future-of-the-cjeus-authority/
34 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/01/12/surveillance-sonore-orleans-baratine-la-justice/ (in French).
35 https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/30/audiosurveillance-algorithmique-a-orleans-la-cnil-donne-raison-a-la-quadrature-sur-lillegalite-du-dispositif/ (in French).

* **Action for annulment against the VSA in Moirans** before the Grenoble Administrative Court, filed in August 2021, voluntary intervention in support of LQDN's action by the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, the Syndicat des Avocats de France and the Syndicat de la Magistrature in February 2024, hearing still in progress.

* **Appeals and intervention in support of appeals against the decree implementing the drone law** lodged at the beginning of May => hearing in May on the summary suspension brought by Adelico (dismissal of the summary application), on the appeal on the merits we are awaiting judgment. In a statement of defence filed in October, we asked for preliminary questions to be put to the CJEU, and we are waiting for the Conseil d'État to reply.

* **Action against drones in the Île-de-France region**: the region has not defended the case and wants to save time.

* **Appeal against the TERREG application decree**: summary application filed in August, supplementary brief in November, awaiting defence from the government, which had been asked by the Conseil d'État to defend the case by the end of January 2024. Establishment of a European coalition on the subject.

* **Intervention in support of the appeal against the vidésurveillance to Marcillac-Vallon** before the TA of Toulouse: two briefs produced, one in May and the other in June (summary), investigation still in progress.

Litigation completed in 2023

* Our case against the **automated videosurveillance in Moirans** was brought before the Conseil d'État in September 2021 and ended with the CE dismissing our appeal in December 2023 on procedural grounds, without addressing the substance of the case, i.e. whether Briefcam was illegal or not.

* An appeal against the **Briefcam user manual** was lodged with the Grenoble Administrative Court in August 2021. The case was dismissed because the local authority finally provided us with the manual.

* External contribution before the Constitutional Council as part of the appeal against the **Olympic Games law** filed in April 2023, the Conseil Constitutionnel validated the constitutionality of the law but issued interpretation reservations in May.

* Intervention in support of the appeal on the merits against the **Testwe software at Paris** 8, lodged in December 2022 with the Montreuil Administrative Court (TA) => no need to adjudicate as the contract between Paris 8 and Testwe has been terminated.

* in support of the appeal by Adelico against **Briefcam** at Coeur Côte Fleurie, lodged in mid-December, rejected by the Conseil d'État for lack of urgency.

III. Our associative dynamics

Our associative dynamics is leading us towards a development of the collective, both in quantitative terms, with a larger team, a bigger budget, a wider field of work in collaboration with more people, **and in qualitative terms**, with the desire to question our working methods in order to move towards "always better" by continuing to produce quality work while offering good working conditions and involvement to all the members of the collective. At the start of the 2023 academic year, we began to **think about the sustainability of volunteer work and the conditions of salaried staff**, as well as how to reorganise the way the association operates, beyond the roadmaps and fundamental issues. All this will continue in 2024, to complement the strategic review validated in April 2023.

III.1. Our working methods

As part of a regular review of our **working methods and decision-making processes**, we finalised in 2023 a **new 'strategic review'**. This review, designed to enable us to "scale up" and overcome a number of structural concerns, is organised around the idea of **roadmaps** to give our projects greater operational autonomy. We have begun to implement it, starting with **a roadmap on social control algorithms**, and and prepared other roadmaps at the end of 2023, for a launch in the first quarter of 2024 (ecological impacts of our digital world, use of VSA during the 2024 Olympic Games, surveillance of activists, Artificial Intelligence). At the same time, we also discussed at length our **work prospects for 2024-2025**, in order to outline what we want to implement. This is what we presented as part of our annual fundraising campaign[36].

At the end of 2023, we also started a number of long-term reflections on our organisation:

- the development of a new working model for our internal operations (conditions for activism, inclusion of new people, collective relations, funding, infrastructure and administration), which we have called the **"Quadrature boat"** and will be testing in 2024;

- a reflection on the openness of our forum, and more broadly on the **openness of the association**. This did not come to fruition in 2023, but we will continue with it;

- work on **formalising** existing **procedures** and identifying those that might be missing, which has laid some foundations for the work and will now be integrated into the "boat" experiment;

- continued work on our pay practices, conflict prevention and management, etc;

- updating our **financial regulations**, which date from 2017 and needed to be reviewed to adapt to developments over the last few years, in particular the roadmaps that are being put in place;

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36 https://www.laquadrature.net/en/support/

- the development of a **new database tool**, as the Uwazi tool we use is experiencing some problems and has never really been taken on board by the majority of the team;

- finally, 2023 also saw the laying of the foundation stone for a **rethink of our communications strategy**, a major project that will keep us busy into 2024!

We also saw a number of **changes within the employee team**, with the replacement of a legal expert, the arrival of a project manager for the "control algorithms" roadmap, the replacement of our surveillance/Technopolice project manager and the transition of this position to full-time. We also provided support for two trainees: a law trainee for four months, and a person on an observation course in sociology.

III.2. Our alliances and partnerships

The past year allowed us to develop our **collaborations with other organisations**, creating new contacts in relation with our campaign on administrative and control algorithms, and strengthening existing ones (continued work with Changer de Cap and Stop Contrôles collectives, meetings with the informal collective Droits sociaux and with various researchers, regular contacts with the Défenseur des droits). Similarly, our involvement in the **fight against the Olympic Games 2024** enabled us to meet with various groups involved in this dynamic (Saccage 2024 in particular). We also **strengthened our links with associations fighting for digital rights** in Europe: we have stepped up our participation in the EDRi network on issues of Artificial Intelligence, biometric surveillance and online surveillance and censorship, and we have also launched a European coalition to take legal action against the anti-terrorist censorship regulation, with associations such as Access Now, Article 19, Wikimédia France, ECNL and the EDRi network. We also experimented partnerships with a group of computer science students from Nanterre on the Technopolice project, with a view to working on the production of data visualisations. While not all the concrete results lived up to expectations, it was a very rich experience according to the people involved.

On a more 'ad hoc' basis, we took part in a number of events during the year:

- a conference on biometrics with the Digital Liberties Observatory (OLN).

- various events organised by the hacker community: the free software days in Lyon, Fosdem, Battlemesh, the Chaos Communication Camp, the Chaos Communication Congress (37C3), the Hadra festival, Pas

Sage en Seine, etc. We also gave a very fine talk at 37C3[37].

- the Digital/Green/Society meeting and a presentation on ecology and digital technology in Belgrade (May 2023).

- a seminar on litigation strategies organised by the Digital Freedom Fund.

- various legal presentations at universities, to lawyers in Bobigny on the Olympic Games law, at the Syndicat des avocats de France conference, as part of the 'Agir le droit' cycle with l'Affaire du Siècle.

- various Technopolice and surveillance events in Foix, Strasbourg, Montpellier, Rodez, Saint-Nazaire, Saint-Ouen, La Rochelle, Grenoble, Aveyron, Rouen, Paris (Beaubourg and Gaité Lyrique), Dijon, Rennes, etc.

- several meetings with teams from the Défenseur des droits, on control algorithms and the VSA.

- various presentations on Artificial Intelligence and the VSA to EELV, LFI, Solidaires, the CGT, etc.

(non-exhaustive list).

III.3. Our community events

As we have done every year since 2018, we held two **general assemblies**, one in April (the official Annual General Assembly to adopt the 2022 balance sheets and Activity report in particular) and the other in October. And, as it has been the case since 2021, we had a **summer camp** at the beginning of July in the Cévennes, which we wanted to shorten this year in order to reflect on how our operations in particular should evolve. We organised six **Quadrapéros** in Paris (in February, March, April, June, September and November) and a more open "Wednesday in the garage" than usual in December.

All in all, 2023 was a fairly typical year in terms of community events.

However, there was the decision to hand over the **Tea House**, one of our historic events at the Chaos Communication Congress, to another organisation, the French collective Interhack, which took possession of it at the Chaos Communication Camp in August 2023.

III.4. Our funding

As in previous years, we ran our **support campaign** between November and December. In addition to the thematic aspects mentioned above (see part II.1), the preparation of this campaign provided an opportunity to launch a new donation website developed by an external service provider.

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37 Conférence au 37C3 : "A year of Surveillance in France : a Short Satirical Tale by La Quadrature du Net":
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/vAuhc4WTtT5fEZ2HvBwmPd.

At the same time, we sought to **develop our funding prospects**. Now that these have begun to bear fruit (this year we have obtained structural support from the Open Society Foundations and the Limelight Foundation, as well as support from the Digital Freedom Fund for the roadmap on algorithms), we have been able to hire someone for one year to work on the issue of algorithms, as well as increasing the post of 'surveillance' project and research officer to a full-time job. We also received one-off support from the EDRi network via their encryption fund, as well as one-off support from the British NGO Fair Trials for our report on predictive policing in France. We also continue to benefit from the strong support of the Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme and the Fondation Un Monde par Tous.

On the financial front, as well as updating our financial regulations, we have also taken the decision at the end of 2023 to hire an accountant to monitor our accounts from 2024 onwards, and to set aside a further €70,000 (to cover the costs of any cessation of our activities).

ANNEX

Key figures for La Quadrature

* number of members at 31 December 2023: 19.
* number of employees at 31 December 2023: 8.
* number of trainees in 2023: 2.
* number of hours of meetings/lectures/conferences given by our members: 1,242 hours (the equivalent of a full-time employee over approximately 8 months) - please note that this figure does not take into account all the work carried out outside these meeting/lecture times.

* number of articles published on the LQDN site in 2023: 43 -for information, in 2022 we published 38 articles on the site, and in 2021 around sixty.
* number of articles published on the TKPL site in 2023: 11 (including 3 published solely on the TKPL site).

* number of subscribers to the newsletter (Actu list): 9169 (9272 by the end of 2022).
* number of subscribers to the « Discussion » list: 1129 (1153 by the end of 2022).
* number of newsletters sent during the year: 29.

* number of subscribers to the Mamot account: 38,779 (27,781 by the end of 2022).
* number of Twitter followers: 110,056 (104,807 by the end of 2022).
* number of Facebook subscribers: 42,000 (42,000 by the end of 2022).

Publications on our website – in French

Scoring algorithms in social administrations - 2 articles + 2 thematic pages
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/01/05/negligences-a-la-caf-10000-dossiers-dallocataires-en-acces-libre/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/11/27/notation-des-allocataires-lindecence-des-pratiques-de-la-caf-desormais-indeniable/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/lutter-contre-les-algos-de-controle/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/caf-notation-generalisee-des-allocataires/

Automated video surveillance - 17 articles + 1 campaign page + 1 report
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/01/05/mobilisation-generale-contre-la-legalisation-de-la-videosurveillance-automatisee/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/01/18/non-a-la-videosurveillance-algorithmique-refusons-larticle-7-de-la-loi-olympique/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/01/23/nos-arguments-pour-faire-interdire-la-surveillance-automatisee/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/02/22/petition-des-elu%c2%b7es-

francais%c2%b7es-contre-la-videosurveillance-algorithmique-de-la-loi-jo/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/02/23/surveillance-biometrique-infiltration/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/02/24/une-bd-pour-refuser-la-surveillance-biometrique/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/03/02/paris-2024-la-france-championne-olympique-de-la-technopolice/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/03/07/38-organisations-internationales-contre-la-surveillance-biometrique/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/03/16/jo-securitaires-le-podium-des-incompetents/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/03/21/fiasco-du-stade-de-france-la-vsa-ne-masquera-pas-les-echecs-du-maintien-de-lordre/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/03/23/la-france-premier-pays-deurope-a-legaliser-la-surveillance-biometrique/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/04/05/videosurveillance-biometrique-derriere-ladoption-du-texte-la-victoire-dun-lobby/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/04/24/loi-jo-2024-passage-de-flambeau-au-conseil-constitutionnel/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/07/04/veesion-la-start-up-illegale-qui-surveille-les-supermarches/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/08/30/la-justice-refuse-de-sanctionner-la-videosurveillance-algorithmique-marseillaise/
* https://technopolice.fr/blog/la-justice-refuse-de-sanctionner-la-videosurveillance-algorithmique-marseillaise/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/11/14/videosurveillance-algorithmique-a-la-police-nationale-des-revelations-passibles-du-droit-penal/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/biometrie-jo/
*
https://www.laquadrature.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/02/Dossier-VSA-2-LQDN.pdf

Litigation on surveillance systems – 2 articles
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/01/12/surveillance-sonore-orleans-baratine-la-justice/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/30/audiosurveillance-algorithmique-a-orleans-la-cnil-donne-raison-a-la-quadrature-sur-lillegalite-du-dispositif/

Drones – 2 articles
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/05/10/tout-le-monde-deteste-les-drones/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/05/23/drones-qui-fera-atterrir-le-ministere-de-linterieur/

Surveillance – 6 articles
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/03/30/le-numerique-nous-insere-dans-une-trame-toujours-plus-resserree/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/05/31/transformer-les-objets-connectes-en-mouchards-la-surenchere-securitaire-du-gouvernement/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/07/11/en-visite-aux-nuits-de-lan2v-le-lobby-de-la-videosurveillance/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/07/25/lassemblee-adopte-lactivation-a-distance-des-appareils-electroniques/

* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/11/23/censure-de-la-surveillance-par-mouchard-loln-ne-crie-pas-victoire/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/12/19/lactivisme-ecologiste-nouveau-terrain-dexperimentation-de-la-technopolice/

Encryption – 4 articles
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/06/05/affaire-du-8-decembre-le-chiffrement-des-communications-assimile-a-un-comportement-terroriste/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/06/15/tribune-attaches-aux-libertes-fondamentales-dans-lespace-numerique-nous-defendons-le-droit-au-chiffrement-de-nos-communications/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/10/02/affaire-du-8-decembre-le-droit-au-chiffrement-et-a-la-vie-privee-en-proces/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/12/14/outils-de-chiffrement-lors-du-proces-du-8-decembre-du-fantasme-a-la-realite/

SREN Law – 3 articles
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/12/projet-de-loi-sren-le-gouvernement-sourd-a-la-realite-dinternet/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/19/projet-de-loi-sren-et-acces-au-porno-identifier-les-internautes-ne-resoudra-rien/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/10/05/projet-de-loi-sren-et-filtre-anti-arnaque-les-navigateurs-comme-auxiliaires-de-police/

Series « In police custody you're on file » - 2 articles
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/04/28/en-gav-tes-fiche%c2%b7e/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/05/12/en-gav-tes-fiche%c2%b7e-episode-2-les-empreintes/

Censorship and social medias – 4 articles
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/07/28/revoltes-et-reseaux-sociaux-le-retour-du-coupable-ideal/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/08/09/larrivee-de-meta-sur-le-fedivers-est-elle-une-bonne-nouvelle/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/18/reglement-csar-la-surveillance-de-nos-communications-se-joue-maintenant-a-bruxelles/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/11/09/une-coalition-de-6-organisations-attaque-en-justice-le-dangereux-reglement-de-lue-sur-les-contenus-terroristes/

Interoperability – 1 page
* https://www.laquadrature.net/interop/

Technopolice website – 3 « exclusive » articles
* https://technopolice.fr/blog/appel-a-soutenir-le-collectif-contre-la-videosurveillance-dans-le-vallon-en-aveyron/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/09/18/festival-technopolice-2023-marseille-edition-2/
* https://technopolice.fr/blog/atelier-sur-la-surveillance-policiere-dans-les-quartiers-marseille-18-novembre-2023/

Fuding campaing – 1 article + 1 campaign page
* https://www.laquadrature.net/2023/11/15/de-nouveaux-combats-pour-2024/
* https://www.laquadrature.net/donner/

Press coverage

(non-exhaustive figures)

Technopolice and the 2024 Olympic Games: 103 mentions

Scoring algorithms: 30 mentions

Automated videosurveillance - automated audio-surveillance (outside the Olympics): 23 mentions

Police tracking devices: 15 mentions

Artificial intelligence: 15 mentions

Platform/social network regulation: 15 mentions

Facial recognition: 12 mentions

SREN law: 12 mentions

Surveillance in general: 11 mentions

Encryption: 7 mentions

Various historical: 6 mentions

Drones: 5 mentions

Regulation on terrorist content: 5 mentions

Hadopi and data retention: 5 mentions

Personal data and health data: 3 mentions

La Quadrature du Net - history and missions: 3 mentions

Associative freedoms: 2 mentions

Miscellaneous: 20 mentions

On our Peertube Channel – in French

* Technopolice and VSA, event at la Flèche d'Or:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/ohDwXAFoLn7WMviUjwvdAK

* VSA and Olympic games, Event at la Flèche d'Or:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/rwGwmJWhf716NNXJrb5zUt

* LQDN on Radio France about VSA and Olympic Games:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/iYAdmwmXwT7sMsufUKqqTN

* The dangers of algorithmic surveillance:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/wB6M6CHdfpWXpozVnqjbde

* Support for Les Soulèvements de la Terre:

https://video.lqdn.fr/w/2JkZ6WW6vg68FZaoxEQbov

* Blast : Olympic Games and mass surveillance:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/fDCn4FnFUBUrRhVPMXHabx

* France 3 PACA - police drones:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/1Bsp26G1DG1tDGVLswQKyf

* France Culture – Technopolice Festival:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/xA5cRmuJewu5UimCYUeZid

* Radio Libertaire:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/vGkBkVSwMdsYVmSYxW5P2n

* France Info:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/uHec8vZhmPFVonwv8hGQA5

* Lecture at La Carmagnole about « Internet, a counter story »:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/74ePcczE7ZamKj4gGLvWxJ

* Lecture at 37C3 : a year of surveillance in France : a short satirical
tale by La Quadrature du Net:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/vAuhc4WTtT5fEZ2HvBwmPd (EN)
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/rXmBKD6NcfxWxJEPHUZc4Z (FR)

* Interview on Pl4TFORM FM – 37C3:
https://video.lqdn.fr/w/mzK75EFU88pEw3ZJspMNmC