



Gaia-X

Communication Briefing

Guidelines on how to communicate about
Gaia-X

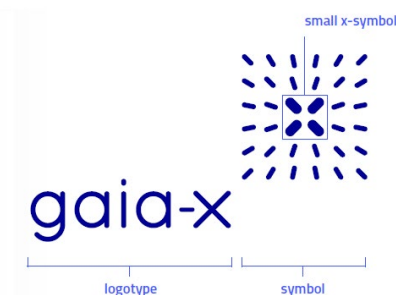
In Short

These guidelines aim to support and enable you when speak publicly about Gaia-X. The document provides you with content and speaking points for your communication purposes. These guidelines are explicitly addressing AISBL members. Furthermore, we encourage and appreciate if Gaia-X Hubs and other related stakeholders refer to the same messages. It is of utmost importance that we speak about the vision of Gaia-X in the same way. If you are a member of the AISBL, we ask you to observe two points that are of paramount importance to both spread the word about Gaia-X while ensuring that messages are aligned:

Logo and Design

From 1 April 2021, Gaia-X uses a new design and a new logo. The Gaia-X logo is the main element of the entire visual style. It consists of two parts: the logotype and the symbol, which contains the small x-symbol.

For web applications and print media, we use the open source font “Titilium”. The system font “Calibri” we use for office applications like PowerPoint- or Word documents.



For more information, see the brand guidelines, which are gathered in a separate document.

Media enquiries

In the event of a media enquiry or an interview request, please decide whether this is regarding your company or exclusively regarding Gaia-X. If the second applies, please always forward the enquiry to the press office of the Gaia-X AISBL (press@gaia-x.eu). Please note that only the dedicated spokespersons (management, Head of communications) of the Gaia-X AISBL are authorised to talk to the press on behalf of Gaia-X AISBL. Member companies of Gaia-X AISBL and contributors to Gaia-X may communicate with the press in their own name and on their own terms!

Social Media

We invite you kindly to post about Gaia-X on your social media channels and help us spread the word. Feel free to use the hashtags in the document, tag other contributing accounts and link to the official Gaia-X profiles on [LinkedIn \(linkedin.com/gaia-x-aisbl\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gaia-x-aisbl) and [Twitter \(@gaia_x_aisbl\)](https://twitter.com/gaia_x_aisbl).

Please always speak for yourself only. Do not post “in the name of Gaia-X”. Do not promote products or services of your company when posting anything related to Gaia-X. In case of any doubt, please forward enquiries that reach you via social media to the Gaia-X press office (press@gaia-x.eu).

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1. Introduction

Gaia-X is a joint venture by a strong and diverse group of stakeholders who are united in their goal to create, apply and benefit from an open and transparent digital ecosystem.

This Communication Briefing is a guide that enables the various contributors to Gaia-X to speak with one voice about the project, align their respective understanding of Gaia-X and, as a result, communicate clearly and consistently about Gaia-X. It provides core messages and information on all important contacts in the Gaia-X context.

The briefing serves as a reliable source of **official wordings** that have been phrased, coordinated and **approved by the Gaia-X**, European Association for Data and Cloud, AISBL. Furthermore, it serves as guidelines for contributors who wish to communicate about the project along various channels, which is greatly welcomed and encouraged.

2. Our communication channels

- **Websites** www.gaia-x.eu

- **Social Media Channels of the AISBL @gaia-x**

Gaia-X AISBL has its official social media profiles on **LinkedIn** and **Twitter**. Any other profiles are not under the maintenance of Gaia-X AISBL.

- **LinkedIn:** linkedin.com/gaia-x-aisbl
- **Twitter:** [@gaia-x-aisbl](https://twitter.com/gaia-x-aisbl)

- **Newsletter**

Interested persons are regularly informed about Gaia-X AISBL activities and the current developments by means of a newsletter. Registration is possible at www.gaia-x.eu.

- **Monthly Call**

Once a month, the latest developments are presented in a monthly call. The schedules are published on Coyo and Nextcloud, and invitations are distributed via email. If you are an active contributor to Gaia-X but have not yet received an invitation, please contact events@gaia-x.eu.

3. How and why we communicate about GAIA-X

We communicate to

- increase the awareness and popularity of the Gaia-X project
- convey a consistent picture of the project
- communicate the purpose and the added value it provides
- recruit members for the AISBL, and contributors for the Hubs and the Community

Press/Media

All official Gaia-X communications are published by the Gaia-X AISBL only. The central creation of any media content is carried out by the Gaia-X AISBL Communication Team and approved by the Board of Directors. **Nobody but Gaia-X AISBL is authorised to publish press releases speaking for Gaia-X AISBL, explaining strategic approaches, or revealing deployments of the project's Working Groups.** The official spokesperson of the AISBL is Francesco Bonfiglio and can be contacted at press@gaia-x.eu.

Any AISBL member company, project contributor, hub representative or supporter is welcome to communicate about Gaia-X in the media, but always focussed on their respective role within the project! Furthermore, please always consult or at least inform the Gaia-X Communication Team before publishing any press releases that include references to the AISBL or strategic dimensions of Gaia-X.

Behaviour in response to media enquiries

If you receive an interview request, please decide if it regards your respective company and its role at Gaia-X AISBL or if it regards Gaia-X as a project. If the second applies, please always forward the enquiry to the Gaia-X AISBL communication team (press@gaia-x.eu). Do not answer the request by yourself since only **the management of the Gaia-X AISBL is authorised to talk to the press on behalf of Gaia-X AISBL and the whole project.**

Every member can talk to the press in their own name and on their own terms. When you are talking to the media about Gaia-X in your company's name, please make sure to stick to the official Q&A, focus on your role in Gaia-X, and **restrain promoting your company's products or services.** Do not comment on the role of other member companies or participants. Please consult the Gaia-X Communication Team (press@gaia-x.eu) in case of any doubt.

Events

Please always inform the Gaia-X AISBL (events@gaia-x.eu) well in advance if you plan an event related to Gaia-X and align messages and contents with us. We are happy to support you with the planning and a pool of suitable speakers, and coordinating events to help orchestrate Gaia-X's overall perception in the public sphere.

Social Media

The Gaia-X AISBL has launched official social media profiles on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). They will be online by 1 April 2021.

We kindly welcome you to follow, share and comment on Gaia-X AISBL's content. When you respectively your company posts regarding Gaia-X please mention the Gaia-X profiles if applicable. Moreover, if you use one or more of the following hashtags, you support the Gaia-X social media campaign.

We encourage all Association members and contributors to actively use their social media channels to promote Gaia-X and their efforts in the project. Please use the official information which we will share on our Social Media channels and repost them. Do not forget to tag other members or contributors in your posts if possible.

Please note that any other profiles above-mentioned are not under the maintenance of Gaia-X AISBL and might not share official information.

Please use the following **hashtags**:

- “owned” (to support a Gaia-X social media campaign)
 - #GaiaX
 - #IamGaiaX
 - #IamDrivingGaiaX
 - #GaiaXCommunity
- earned
 - #ShareData
- #DigitalInfrastructure
- #FederatedData4Europe
- #DataEcosystem
- #InfrastructureEcosystem
- #SovereignDataExchange
- #DigitalSovereignty
- #CloudSecurity
- #OpenSource

Communication Material

Gaia-X provides the following resources to help your efforts in promoting the Gaia-X AISBL:

- [Gaia-X Factsheet](#)
- [Gaia-X Infographic](#)
- [Gaia-X Media Kit](#)
- [Gaia-X Hubs](#)
- [Gaia-X Membership](#)
- [Gaia-X Logo](#)
- [Gaia-X Design Guidelines](#)
- [Gaia-X Hubs Online Styleguide](#)

4. Social Media Guidelines for AISBL members

General

- Speak for yourself/your company only.
- Do not post “on behalf of/in the name of Gaia-X”.
- Do not comment on the activities of competitors or their partnership with Gaia-X.
- Do not promote products or services of your company or organisation by connecting them to Gaia-X.
- Please ask for permission when using official imagery of Gaia-X AISBL
- If not expressly approved for use, please request the use of Gaia-X imagery (logos, images) from the Gaia-X Communication Team. This applies if you want to open social media presences (such as LinkedIn groups) for the discussion on Gaia-X or Gaia-X related issues. Please always consult the Gaia-X Communication Team beforehand.

In case you are not certain, feel free to forward enquiries that reach you via social media to the Gaia-X Communication Team (press@gaia-x.eu).

Style and language regulations

- Positive but neutral wording
- Non-competitive
- Short sentences, avoid substantiation
- Avoid too many technical or scientific terms, if used, explain them at the beginning
- Adhere to the official spelling of Gaia-X (capital G and a capital X)
- If writing in English, use British English
- If writing in a local language, use gender-neutral terms.
- In general, don’t use abbreviations like, e.g., i.a., etc. (except for tables)
- Please spell out even commonly used acronyms when using them the first time within a text (e.g. Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy). For subsequent use shortened (BMW), repeat in long documents with every new chapter.
- If writing about people in a continuous text, always use their full name, but refrain from using their title. If possible, mention them with their social media profile (@ mention).

5. Corporate Design and Logo

From 1 April 2021, Gaia-X uses a new corporate design and a new logo. Detailed information about the usage of the Corporate Design and the logo can be found in the **Brand Guidelines** in a separate document.

Brand Guidelines

Short Version



- The new corporate design with the logo is to be used from **1 April 2021**.
 - The old logo with the tree and the associated visuals should no longer be used.
 - The use of the logo is granted to all those who actively contribute to the Gaia-X project.
 - When using the logo, please note the **trademark rights together with the terms of use** listed in the **Brand Guidelines**.
 - The old Word and PPT templates will be replaced by new ones. These can be found on Coyo and Nextcloud or requested via e-mail (press@gaia-x.eu).
 - The spelling of Gaia-X changes from "GAIA-X" to "**Gaia-X**". An exception is the logo, in which Gaia-X is written in lower case only.
 - For web applications and print media we use the open-source font "Titilium", for office applications we use the system font "Calibri"
- *Detailed information about the usage of the corporate design and the logo can be found in the **Brand Guidelines**.*
 - *In case you have any questions feel free to approach the Gaia-X communication team via **press@gaia-x.eu***

6. About Gaia-X

Gaia-X in a nutshell

Gaia-X is the next generation of data infrastructure: an open, transparent and secure digital ecosystem, where data and services can be made available, collated and shared in an environment of trust. Representatives of businesses, science and politics from mainly European countries are creating a federated system that meets the highest standards of digital sovereignty while promoting innovation.

There are the following dimensions to Gaia-X:

- it is a European initiative built on a broad open source community
- it is a digital ecosystem focussing on business with data for and by users
- it is represented by a legally incorporated organisation, the Gaia-X, European Association for Data and Cloud, AISBL
- it integrates the user perspectives through a network of national Gaia-X Hubs

7. Key messages about Gaia-X

Gaia-X is the answer to a massive demand for safe, secure and sovereign data across Europe

The growing need for safe, secure and sovereign cloud infrastructures and data spaces is a deep driving force across the European market. It demands for unprecedented solutions based on common European values and rules for users and states to thrive on a global scale and weigh in the world economic competition.

Gaia-X is a business driver serving the future of economy

It is a game changer for data driven businesses. Gaia-X is a key asset to forge Europe's next generation of data infrastructure. Its secure, federated and decentralised architecture will meet the highest standards of digital sovereignty while promoting innovation. By merging hundreds of different organisations in different domains and from across the globe in a single endeavour, Gaia-X combines challenging use cases with innovative solutions in the cloud to bring the most value out of the European landscape.

Gaia-X is a wide ecosystem, taking the best of European landscape to the next level

Gaia-X is a joint project: It brings people from different companies, research institutions, associations, administrations and politics together to work towards a common goal. Together, they build on the widest spectrum of expertise to co-create the future of digital Europe across dedicated data spaces serving the most critical industries.

Gaia-X is an open organisation that encourages the contributions that will scale European values

Everyone can get involved in a way that suits their resources best. Contributions are key to leveraging technical expertise as well as the development of new use cases. This continuous engagement of various stakeholders across Gaia-X working groups is the cornerstone of its value proposition. Making clear the rules of the game sends a strong signal to actually defend and promote European values.

Messages by target groups:

To Media:

1. Gaia-X is a data infrastructure ecosystem that aims to facilitate the highest standards of data sovereignty for all participants in the secure environment of European values.
2. Gaia-X is intended to bundle existing European data solutions (cloud, edge, storage, computing, network) and produce new approaches in an entirely transparent way.
3. Gaia-X is a joint effort by international IT pioneers to support its partners in the international market.

To opinion makers and community representatives




1. Gaia-X enables its partners to operate their data business securely and sovereignly – anywhere, anytime.
2. Gaia-X users benefit from secure data spaces for the nine main industries (domains) specified in the European Data Strategy.
3. Gaia-X provides a powerful European alternative for data infrastructure / for a data ecosystem.

To the professional audience:

1. Gaia-X will bring existing technology to a new level and establish European data sovereignty.
2. Gaia-X is a unique opportunity for CSP and users to participate in and develop Europe's new data ecosystem.
3. Gaia-X facilitates the sharing of digital knowledge between users of the ecosystem.

8. Publications Overview

All publications are available for download at <https://gaia-x.eu/publications>.

<div> <div>White Paper</div> <div>Gaia-X and European Smart Cities and Communities</div> </div> <div> Gaia-X and European Smart Cities and Communities white paper </div> <div> Open  </div>	<div> <div>Position Paper</div> <div>Data Space Business Committee</div> </div> <div> Data Space Business Committee: Position Paper </div> <div> Open  [PDF 4.09 MB] </div>	<div> <div></div> <div>Gaia-X Architecture Document</div> </div> <div> Gaia-X Architecture Document 21.09 </div> <div> Open  </div>
<div>More</div>		
<div> <div>June 22, 2021</div> <div>Position Paper</div> <div>Energy Data Space: The path to a European approach for energy</div> </div> <div> Energy Data Space - Position Paper </div>	<div> <div>June 22, 2021</div> <div>Slide Deck</div> <div>Energy Data Space: The path to a European approach for energy</div> </div> <div> Energy Data Space - Slide Deck </div>	<div> <div>April 21, 2021</div> <div>Consultation phase – 21.04</div> <div>Gaia-X Policy Rules Document</div> </div> <div> Gaia-X Policy Rules Document containing link to consultation </div>

9. Questions and Answers

Overview

1. What is Gaia-X?
2. What is special about Gaia-X: Five distinguishing principles that drive Gaia-X
3. Why does Europe need Gaia-X?
4. Is Gaia-X a European cloud?
5. Is Gaia-X open for international cloud providers and users?
6. What advantages does Gaia-X offer to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises?
7. What is the organisational structure of Gaia-X?
8. What is the Gaia-X Association?
9. What is the Gaia-X Community?
10. What are the Gaia-X Hubs?
11. Who can join Gaia-X?
12. How can interested organisations participate?
13. What is a Gaia-X Use Case?
14. How and where can Gaia-X be applied?
15. What will Gaia-X offer and deliver?
16. What is a Domain?
17. What is a Data Space?

What is Gaia-X?

Gaia-X was initiated to enable a secure, open and sovereign use of data. In this way, self-determined decisions can be made on how and where data is stored, processed and used within the data infrastructure. Gaia-X is characterised by the following core elements:

1. Gaia-X wants to create the next generation of data infrastructure for Europe, its states, its companies, its citizens, and its global partners.
2. This infrastructure needs to meet the highest standards in terms of digital sovereignty and fostering innovation. Gaia-X regards this infrastructure as the cradle of an ecosystem, where data and services can be made available, collected, and shared in an environment of trust.
3. The concept focuses on the precise needs of users and the added benefit as shown with the Use Cases.
4. The existing concepts are to be understood as a proposal to Europe. Gaia-X is pursuing this path also together with other European partners and in alignment with the European Commission.

What is special about Gaia-X: Five distinguishing principles that drive Gaia-X

- **Gaia-X is secure and trustworthy:** In Gaia-X, data and applications are handled in a way that ensures full control over these. The goal is to create a modular, secure, trustworthy, and user-friendly system to share data within the European legal framework.
- **Gaia-X is transparent:** Users of Gaia-X benefit from transparent markets and broad access to customised services. This will foster data-driven innovation for enterprises of all sizes, scientific institutions, and public authorities.
- **Gaia-X is open:** The data infrastructure is based on the open source principles.
- **Gaia-X is federated:** Gaia-X connects centralised and decentralised infrastructures within a homogeneous system.
- **Gaia-X is the basis for creating the next generation of ecosystems:** The federated data spaces, infrastructure and services will lead to a sovereign ecosystem that creates new business opportunities and improves the competitiveness of data services. This ecosystem will foster innovation and provide easy access to new digital technologies.

Why does Europe need Gaia-X?

- **Data sovereignty:** data sovereignty means the capability of an entity (natural person or corporate) of being entirely self-determined with regard to its data.
- **Data availability:** A trustworthy, secure and transparent data infrastructure is required that can be used to exchange and process data. This is the only way the economies of scale created by the availability of large data sets in Europe can be used.

- **Innovation:** A digital ecosystem is required that allows the development of innovative products and helps European companies and business models scale up and be globally competitive. Gaia-X provides the basis for this.

Is Gaia-X a European cloud?

Gaia-X is not a cloud. It is an innovative federate infrastructure for data, which can be used by cloud services.

Gaia-X is not intended to compete against existing offerings (such as globally active cloud providers, so-called hyperscalers). Instead, Gaia-X connects to various data platforms via open interfaces and existing standards to share and exchange data and create a platform for innovation. The project is open to all interested stakeholders, whether large industrial companies, SMEs or start-ups. The focus is on the users – the key factor in the success of the digital economy.

Is Gaia-X open for international cloud providers and users?

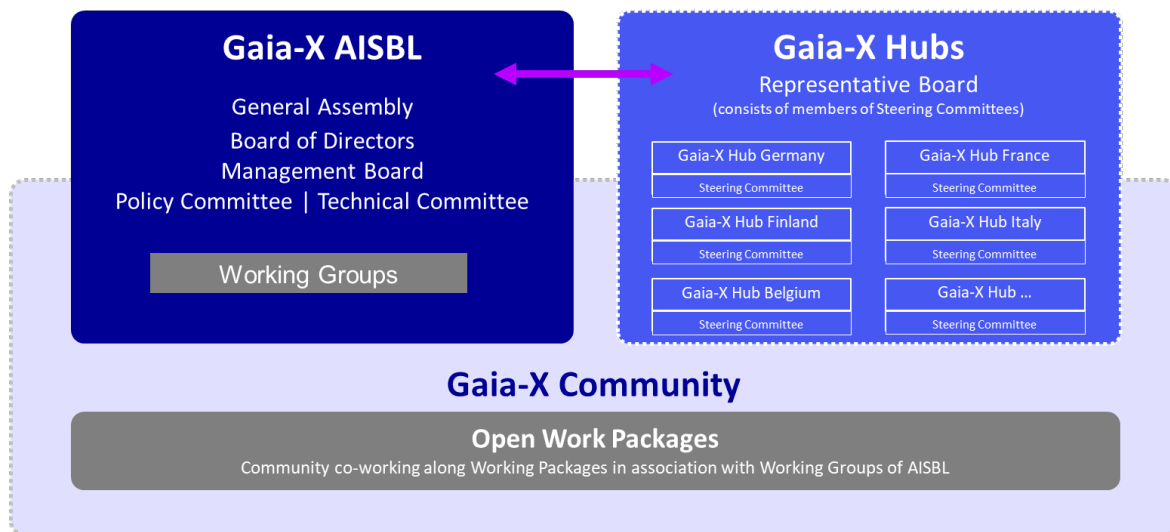
Gaia-X is an open data infrastructure. Therefore, cloud providers and users alike can participate at any time if they clearly share the values and ambitions of Gaia-X – data sovereignty and data availability – and fulfil the common rules for participation.

What advantages does Gaia-X offer to Small and Medium sized Enterprises?

Gaia-X will lower the barriers for SMEs to do business with data. Uncomplicated collaboration between edge and cloud instances will be made possible. Common standards help to break down domain-specific data silos that cannot be linked and evaluated due to a lack of data interfaces. SMEs will benefit from market transparency, broad access to alternative solutions and the resulting opportunities.

What is the organisational structure of Gaia-X?

The organisational structure is based on the three pillars of the Gaia-X AISBL, the national Gaia-X Hubs and the Gaia-X Community. Within these three contexts, various Working Groups and committees are taking responsibilities. They exchange internally, with each other and towards other stakeholders (e.g. EU Commission, international initiatives).



What is the Gaia-X Association?

The international non-profit association Gaia-X, European Association for Data and Cloud, AISBL (French: association internationale sans but lucrative) is the solid structure for the future growth of the project. It is intended to consolidate and facilitate work and collaboration within the Gaia-X community. The Gaia-X association will develop technical solutions and regulatory frameworks and ensure that necessary central facilities as well as core services to guarantee the envisaged data infrastructure are made available. The association has no business interest of its own.

The activities of the Gaia-X Association (AISBL) are based on three main objectives:

SPECIFY – Architecture and Federation Services specification

In order to connect the infrastructure ecosystem and the data ecosystem, the AISBL will document (collect and summarise), describe (meta-model) and validate (define compliance criteria) the key ‘federation services’: identity, trust, interoperability, catalogue, compliance and their sub-components. The AISBL will publish a ‘reference architecture’ document containing all existing and applicable standards, depicting the meta-model and the deployment of software components constituting it. In addition, AISBL will publish the specification of the federation services.

IMPLEMENT – Open-source software code

The ‘reference architecture’ and the federation services specified by the Gaia-X Association needs to become operational in practice. For this reason, the Gaia-X Association will develop an open-source ‘reference implementation’ (software code) based on the federation service specification. It will be a deployable version of the federated services on cloud platforms, either from cloud service providers or on-premises edge cloud.

TEST – Instruments of certification

Each implementation based on the reference implementation of the Gaia-X Federation Services used in cloud/edges needs to be tested. The Gaia-X Association will provide guiding principles for an automated ‘conformity test’. The conformity check will validate the regulatory design and the correct implementation of the software. The conformity check will be used to certify the adherence both, the static (code) and the dynamic (runtime) implementation. The certification itself will be examined by an independent third-party authority.

What is the Gaia-X Community?

The Gaia-X Community consists of representatives from companies and organisations that actively participate in the development of Gaia-X. The community is the backbone of the Gaia-X project. It is pure hands-on collaboration and ensures openness and transparency to build market acceptance, awareness, and trust. The community – consisting of users and providers – works together on defined Open Work Packages. Everyone is invited to participate.

What are the Gaia-X Hubs?

The Gaia-X Hubs give users of the future data ecosystem a voice at a national level. Their main objectives are to develop ecosystems, bundle national initiatives, and provide a central point of contact to interested companies. A Hub focuses on the exchange with other regional Gaia-X Hubs worldwide to ensure international alignment regarding their activities, the definition of requirements and the identification of regulatory hurdles.

Who can join Gaia-X?

Gaia-X is defined by openness and transparency. In consequence, Gaia-X remains open for new interested parties to join and to contribute. Participation in Gaia-X is also possible for market participants outside Europe who share the values and goals of data sovereignty and data availability.

How can interested organisations participate?

In general, there are three ways to get involved:

1. Shape the project and its future as an AISBL member.
2. Engage in the national Gaia-X Hubs.
3. Contribute to Gaia-X Community.

What is a Gaia-X Use Case?

A Gaia-X Use Case is a potential application for cross-sector or domain-specific innovation, which makes use and bases on the use of the Gaia-X Federation Services. Various Use Cases

from different domains submitted in the Gaia-X Hubs demonstrate the advantages of a data infrastructure. They demonstrate the need as well as the dependencies and the added value of the ecosystem and describe benefits for (cross-)domain exchange supported by Gaia-X. In addition, use cases help to identify domain-specific and cross-domain specific requirements. These are incorporated into the development of Gaia-X.

How and where can Gaia-X be applied?

Future users of Gaia-X are currently developing many innovative use cases and business models for Gaia-X, representing various demands of European companies and organisations. On the one hand, they demonstrate the need for and added benefit of Gaia-X. On the other hand, each of them represents a specific domain and serves as a basis for identifying and validating domain-specific as well as cross-domain requirements and for incorporating them into the development of Gaia-X.

What will Gaia-X offer and deliver?

As soon as use cases and federation services have been defined, we will see Gaia-X compatible offerings.

- Services that are Gaia-X compliant will be offered by Cloud/Edge-providers and find a demand on the markets.
- It will be up to the markets to define which Gaia-X services will be offered for which domains (e.g., automotive, health etc) by individual providers, on a commercial basis.
- To date, no company can offer any Gaia-X compliant product or service since the Gaia-X Standards are yet to be defined.
- We are expecting to see the first Gaia-X compliant services offered on the market by the end of 2021.
- The “automotive alliance” and the “data space finance” are two examples of domain specific, Gaia-X compliant services that will be one of the first to be provided in the market.

What is a domain?

The members of the Gaia-X Hubs are organised in domain-specific working groups on a national level. Each domain is managed by a domain ambassador who coordinates the activities within the respective working group. The domains focus on collecting, analysing, and evaluating use cases and defining domain-specific and cross-domain requirements. These form the basis for the growth of data infrastructures.

What is a Data Space?

In general, the term “data space” refers to a type of data relationship between trusted partners, each of whom applies the same high standards and rules to the storage and sharing of their data. However, of key importance to the concept of a data space is that data

are not stored centrally but at source and are therefore only shared (via semantic interoperability) when necessary. In the Gaia-X context, the data in the data spaces is held exclusively by the members of the Association.

A data space is comprised of the sum of all its participants – which may be data providers, users and intermediaries. Data spaces can be nested and overlapping, so that a data provider, for example, can participate in several data spaces all at once. Data sovereignty and trust are essential for the working of data spaces and the relationships between participants. To ensure these, the International Data Spaces Association (IDSA), a founding member of the Gaia-X AISBL, has proposed a reference architecture model for participants. Each data space provides specific data and thereby forms a solid ground for each ecosystem. The software required to implement data spaces runs on cloud/edge cloud infrastructures.

10. Updated Deliverables

— Technical Architecture

The Gaia-X Architecture identifies and describes the concepts of the targeted federated open data infrastructure as well as the relationship between them from a technical perspective. It addresses stakeholders from industry, the public sector, research and other associations. A 2.0 version of the technical architecture document replaces the former architecture document released June 2020.

The **Gaia-X Architecture Document 2.0** is subject to continuous updates reflecting the evolution of business requirements (e.g., from data space activities in Europe), changes in regulatory frameworks relevant to the scope of Gaia-X and the advancements of the technological state of the art.

The Gaia-X Architecture document describes

- all concepts which are required to setup data and service ecosystems between participants of the Gaia-X data and service ecosystem. The scope of the document thus applies to providers and consumers and the services which are needed for their interaction.
- the services needed to ensure identities, implement trust mechanisms, and provide usage control over data exchange and compliance without the need for individual agreements.
- both the static decomposition and dynamic behaviour of the Gaia-X core concepts and Federation Services.
- a glossary which identifies and defines those terms that have a distinct meaning in Gaia-X, which may slightly deviate from everyday language or have different meanings in other architectures or standards.

— Federation Services

The Federation Services are the minimum technical requirements and services necessary for the operation of federated Gaia-X ecosystems. The Federation Services provide the core mechanisms to find, combine and connect services from providers to enable this envisaged user-friendly infrastructure ecosystem.

Federation services provide value if they are based on common standards which ensure transparency and interoperability. Gaia-X addresses this requirement by aligning network and interconnection providers, Cloud Solution Providers (CSP), High Performance Computing (HPC) as well as sector specific clouds and edge systems. Here, mechanisms are developed to find, combine, and connect services from participating providers in order to enable a user-friendly infrastructure ecosystem. Gaia-X identifies the minimum technical requirements and services necessary to operate the federated Gaia-X Ecosystem. The development of these services will follow the

principles of Security by Design and includes the concept of Privacy by Design to ensure highest security requirements and privacy protection.

Technical implementation of these Federation Services focusses on the following areas:

- the implementation of secure federated identity and trust mechanisms (security and privacy by design)
- sovereign data services which ensure the identity of source and receiver of data and which ensure the access and usage rights towards the data
- easy access to the available providers, nodes and services. Data will be provided through federated catalogues
- the integration of existing standards to ensure interoperability and portability across infrastructure, applications and data
- the establishment of a compliance framework and Certification and Accreditation services
- the contribution of a modular compilation of open-source software and standards to support providers in delivering a secure, federated and interoperable infrastructure
- The initial set of federation services will be expanded. The roadmap is aligned with the development of ecosystem participants' requirements.

The Gaia-X Federation Services are developed as open source and will be made available for Code artefacts according to Apache Software License v2 (ASL2) and NonCode artefacts according to Creative Commons License with Attribution "CC-BY". On this basis, user groups can organise themselves independently as part of Gaia-X, provided they comply with the corresponding rules. The result enables communities to build up innovative, federated, and interoperable ecosystems for data and services.

The eco – Association of the Internet Industry is acting as Project Management Office to support the specification and development of the Gaia-X Federation Services with partners in direct consultation with user groups to meet related requirements where applicable. The project is funded by the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy.

— Policy and Rules

The intention of the Policy and Rules is to **translate European Values into actionable controllable rules** that can be checked, and adherence certified. Gaia-X thus defines a set of policy rules and architecture of standards to support portability, interoperability and interconnection for the data infrastructure, applications, and data itself. This provides the necessary link between the user and the providers, ensuring that the services, which will be provided under the umbrella of Gaia-X will comply to the overall objectives of the project. The full adherence to applicable EU legislation (e.g., in areas such as data protection and security) is a prerequisite and thus is not waived or affected by the policies and rules. It is also necessary to point out, that participation within Gaia-X and providing Gaia-X compliant services, shall not prevent any provider to also provide non-Gaia-X service offerings.

A first edition of these rules was published in **June 2020** as so called **PRAAS Paper 1.0**. The publication was followed by an extensive consultation phase within the Gaia-X Community in Fall 2020 and a revision phase organised through the Policy Rules Committee until March 2021. The contributions during the consultation phase showed that there are numerous expectations towards the rules depending on the business specifications. As a result, the work on a common terminology has been intensified since this is a key success factor. The Committee also decided to focus on a user centric approach, which means they will not split up the rules on infrastructure requirements from those that deal with data and software but rather work with use cases from the various domains.

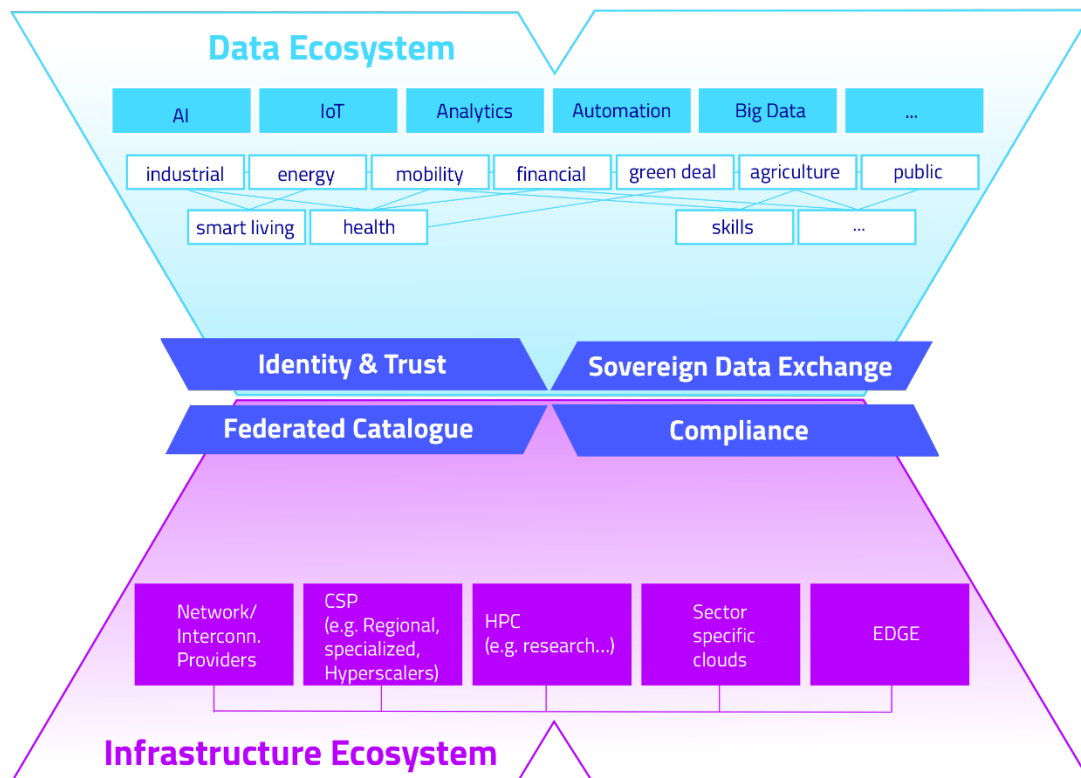
The second version of the paper is now called **Policy and Rules Document (PRD 03.21)**. This document follows the above-mentioned approach not to split the assessment of infrastructure, data, and software rules. Thus, the structure of the document has been adapted. The second version will also be followed a consultation process by the Gaia-X Community.

— Use Cases

A Gaia-X Use Case is a potential application for cross-sector or domain-specific innovation. Up to now more than 70 use cases have been published by the German Hub on data-infrastructure.eu. With the growing network of international hubs more use cases will follow. For a definition of Use Cases please see the Q&A section.

11. Infographics to share

The Gaia-X ecosystem of services and data

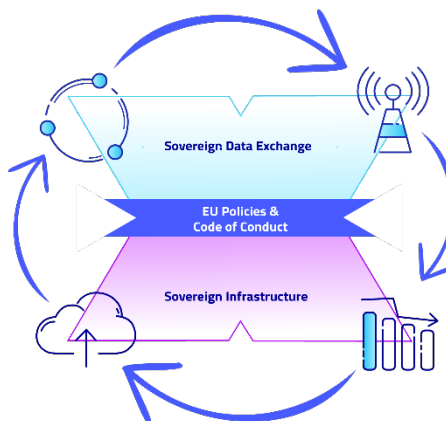


Creation of digital infrastructures and an ecosystem for innovation

Trusted environment between partners and interoperable links between smart service applications and infrastructure services.

Increasing transparency and attractiveness of digital services

Reduce barriers to compliant service usage; enable the development of new services and products.



Data sovereignty

Strengthen the digital sovereignty of business, science, government and society.

Reduction of dependencies

Reduce private and business consumers' dependency of single providers; control over location and regulatory environment of stored data; reduce sector-specific dependencies.

12. Gaia-X AISBL Contacts

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