

Gaia-X Compliance Document Marketing Summary

Gaia-X European Association for Data and Cloud
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Gaia-X focuses on creating a trusted, secure, and compliant environment for global organisations to collaborate. The Compliance Document outlines the standards for cloud services, data exchanges, and digital infrastructures. This document sets the fundamental rules that participants in the Gaia-X ecosystem need to adhere to, and such rules are in line with the European values of transparency, openness, data protection, and cybersecurity, all while promoting competitiveness and innovation.

Why Gaia-X Compliance Matters

- 1. Openness and Transparency:** Gaia-X contributes to the broader efforts of interoperable data spaces based on a federated cloud infrastructure that promotes openness and transparency, aligning with various initiatives that ensure stakeholders have clear insights into the operations, data handling, and processes of service providers. This principle is essential across the industry to build trust within the ecosystem.
- 2. Security and Data Protection:** In line with GDPR and other key regulations (Data Act, Data Governance Act), Gaia-X guarantees that personal and non-personal data are processed securely. Providers must ensure proper contracts, privacy protections, and technical safeguards are in place.
- 3. European Sovereignty:** Gaia-X is committed to ensuring European control and values over digital infrastructure, safeguarding that data and services comply with European laws and standards. While Gaia-X promotes interoperability within Europe, our tools and framework are designed to be adaptable. They can be applied to other regions, allowing users in different economic areas to comply with their own local legislation, laws, and standards, enabling Gaia-X to create global interoperability.

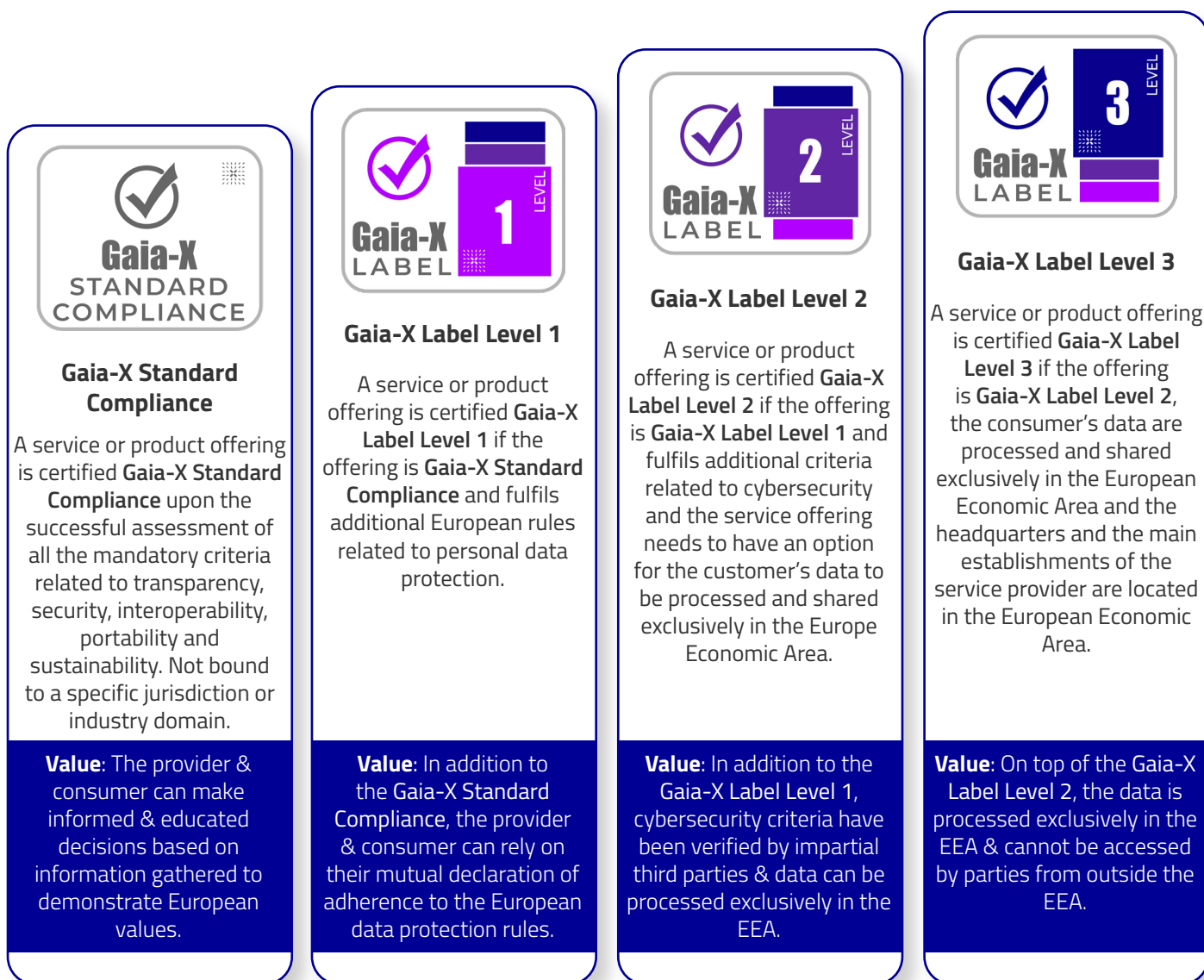
Core Components of Gaia-X Compliance

- 1. Standard-Based Approach:** The compliance framework is built on widely accepted global standards, such as ISO/IEC 27001 and BSI C5 while maintaining flexibility for region-specific needs. This ensures a universal level of security and compliance across all sectors.
 - Gaia-X's use of verifiable credentials and linked data allows for real-time, automated validation of compliance standards.
- 2. Labels for Differentiation:** Gaia-X introduces Standard Compliance for cloud services, as well as 3 optional Label levels, starting from Label Level 1 (the lowest), up to Label Level 3 (the highest), which represent different degrees of compliance with regard to the goals of transparency, autonomy, data protection, security, interoperability, portability, sustainability, and European Control.
 - **Gaia-X Standard Compliance:** A universal set of standards designed to apply to all types of providers worldwide.
 - **Gaia-X Label Level 1:** Entry-level compliance with standard data protection and security following European laws.
 - **Gaia-X Label Level 2:** Higher-level data protection and security standards following European laws and widely based on certifications.
 - **Gaia-X Label Level 3:** The highest compliance level for services requiring exceptional data handling, security, and legal control for European providers only.

Note:

Gaia-X Standard Compliance and **Gaia-X Label Level 1** are accessible through a **declaration**: "I hereby declare that...". The compliance engine will utilise digitally signed JSON declarations rather than traditional paperwork.

Gaia-X Label Level 2 and **Gaia-X Label Level 3** Depend on **attestations** from reputable third parties known as Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB). For instance: "I, CAB, attest that XXX..."



Labelling Criteria, grouped by sections and each linked to the technical artifacts that enable their automatic conformity assessment:

- » **Contractual framework** – 17 criteria: consolidating the requirements for legally binding actions, including terms and conditions as well as applicable laws.
- » **Data protection** – 10 criteria: ensuring the protection of customer and consumer data in accordance with GDPR regulations.
- » **Cybersecurity** – 20 criteria: ensuring state-of-the-art data storage and secure access, following standards such as SecNumCloud.

- » **Portability** – 2 criteria: ensuring that customers are not subject to vendor lock-in.
- » **European control** – 8 criteria: ensuring that data storage and processing by the providers are conducted exclusively within the EU/EEA. Access to these labels is granted solely through formal attestation.
- » **Sustainability** – 4 criteria: enables the provision of information regarding the environmental sustainability of the infrastructure hosting the data and services.

3. Trust Anchors and Validation: Gaia-X provides a Trust Framework that ensures verifiable credentials are validated through a Gaia-X Digital Clearing House (GXDCH), enabling continuous and automated trust assessments across services. Trust anchors are the trustable sources for declaration and attestation. For example, you need to use an EV SSL or eIDAS certificate to sign your declaration. The list of accredited CABs will also be included in the Trusted Anchors List maintained by the AISBL.

Benefits for Ecosystem Participants

Gaia-X Compliance is designed to serve all organisations, from SMEs to hyperscalers and public sector entities, including governments. It facilitates the use of a standardised vocabulary for describing services and data, promoting interoperability across ecosystems. This enables the metadata exchange regarding data and services without requiring direct access to the underlying data.

- **For Users:** Businesses and governments can confidently choose services that align with their specific security and compliance requirements, ensuring data is managed to the highest standards. This guarantees protection against vendor lock-in and the ability to enforce rights under European laws and values. As adoption grows, consumers will be empowered to compare similar services and make informed decisions.
- **For Providers:** Gaia-X sets a clear path for certification and compliance, helping companies demonstrate their adherence to top-tier security, privacy, and interoperability standards. This boosts credibility and positions them as leaders in the European digital market. Cloud providers leverage the trust conferred by this certification to demonstrate their compliance with European regulations, values, and applicable laws. They adopt a standardised format for describing their services, publishing them in shared catalogues. This common approach, utilising the Gaia-X Ontology, enables cloud interoperability through the consistent use of shared terminology.

The Gaia-X Compliance Document is a key indicator of Europe's commitment to digital sovereignty, security, and trust.

Whether you're a service provider or a consumer of digital services, Gaia-X provides the grounds for building and engaging in a trusted digital marketplace that aligns with European values and regulatory frameworks.

For more information, visit [Gaia-X Compliance Document](#).



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