

Gaia-X – current developments

Info-Briefing

03/2025

About the Info-Briefing

The Info-Briefing explains the latest developments at Gaia-X and is based on the Hubdate of 28 March 2025. It summarizes news from the Gaia-X Association (AISBL) and selected Gaia-X Hubs as well as the developments from the two committees – the Technical Committee and the Policy and Rules Committee. It also explains the objectives, challenges and implementation of the EU Data Act in relation to data spaces.

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Glossary

Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs): Organizations (e.g. auditing firms) that validate the conformity of services to criteria (such as those defined by ISO). CABs are accredited by the relevant standard organizations. (Details: <https://casco.iso.org/bodies.html>)

Participant Credentials: are authentication and authorization credentials used by participants in the Gaia-X network to verify their identity and prove their entitlement to participate in various services and processes within the Gaia-X ecosystem.

Refactoring: is the process of reworking and restructuring existing code without changing its external behavior. The aim of refactoring is to make the code more readable, maintainable, efficient or scalable. This often involves simplifying, optimizing or better organizing redundant, unclear or complex code sections without affecting the functionality of the software.

1. Gaia-X Association (AISBL): Current developments


Value proposition of the Gaia-X Standard

The revised [Gaia-X brochure](#) now also provides an overview of the **value propositions of the Gaia-X standards** for various organizations. It is currently available in English and [German](#).

New Gaia-X Lighthouse Data Spaces and Lighthouse Projects

The [Gaia-X Endorsement Program](#) recognizes Gaia-X projects and data spaces from various industries that demonstrate a high level of quality, compliance and maturity in the implementation of Gaia-X. These pioneering projects are intended to create a coherent data infrastructure ecosystem.

Gaia-X Lighthouse Data Spaces and [Lighthouse Projects](#) represent an exemplary level of compliance with Gaia-X principles and standards. They signal an outstanding commitment to promoting digital sovereignty and European added value. Within the Lighthouse Data Spaces, reusable open-source components are developed.

 **Pontus-X** is the second **Lighthouse Data Space** after Catena-X. The main product of Pontus-X is a technology stack based on Gaia-X.


The **Lighthouse Projects** have also recently included the projects [Flex4Res - Data spaces for FLEXible production lines and supply chains FOR RESilient manufacturing](#) and [Infra DS](#) from the areas of production.

New Gaia-X Digital Clearing Houses (GXDCH)

The Gaia-X Digital Clearing Houses (GXDCH) act as central points of contact for companies and institutions seeking verification in accordance with the Gaia-X rules. They assess who is authorised to be part of Gaia-X and certify the **Gaia-X conformity** of participants and services based on the [Gaia-X Trust Framework](#). The GXDCH are therefore the only infrastructure required to verify Gaia-X conformity.

 The Gaia-X Association accredited **two new Gaia-X Digital Clearing Houses in 2025**:

- [CISPE.cloud](#), an advocacy group of European Cloud infrastructure providers in Brussels, Belgium.
- [PFALZKOM](#) GmbH, an ICT service provider based in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

 An overview of the accredited GXDCHs can be found here: <https://gaia-x.eu/services-deliverables/digital-clearing-house/>

Whitepaper in progress: Geographical and Domain Extensions of the Gaia-X Framework

A white paper on geographical and domain extensions of the Gaia-X Framework is currently being developed. It explains how the **Gaia-X Trust Framework** could be extended to ensure compliance in different industries and international jurisdictions **outside the European Union**. It also identifies ways in which certain countries or industries, such as the finance, mobility, aerospace and defence industries, can benefit from the framework. The extension goes beyond the criteria for cloud services defined in the [Gaia-X Compliance Document](#) (Label Level 1 to 3; for a summary, see <https://gaia-x-hub.de/gx-essentials/zusammenfassung-compliance-document-24-11-release/>) and also includes data exchange services. The white paper is not part of the Gaia-X specifications.

2. Updates from the Gaia-X Hubs

Switzerland: Opening of the Hub

The [Gaia-X Hub Switzerland](#) was opened on 25 March 2025 in Zurich, Switzerland. The **Gaia-X Hub Switzerland** is coordinated by the Swiss Data Alliance.

France: Framework for data space projects

In the future, the French Ministry of Finance will only fund data space projects that can be transferred into an **operational business after the funding period**. If a sufficiently stable business model does not exist by then, the project participants will take over the operation of the data space themselves. The [Decade-X](#) project (Digital Ecosystem for Aerospace and Defence as a sister project of Aerospace-X) and Data4Nuclear-X (for the construction of new nuclear power plants in France) are awaiting funding decisions.

Germany: Online-Campus about data economy

The Gaia-X Hub Germany has launched a **free online campus on data economy**. Since 31 March, interested parties can explore the basics of the data economy as well as the concepts of data spaces and data ecosystems. The online courses are free of charge and can be accessed in English and German without registration. The campus is aimed at interested parties from politics, administration, science and business who want to familiarise themselves with the topic without in-depth IT expertise.

The AISBL is also offering two new courses on the use cases of Pontus-X and EuProGigant in the **Gaia-X Academy**. In addition, courses can now be started in any order.



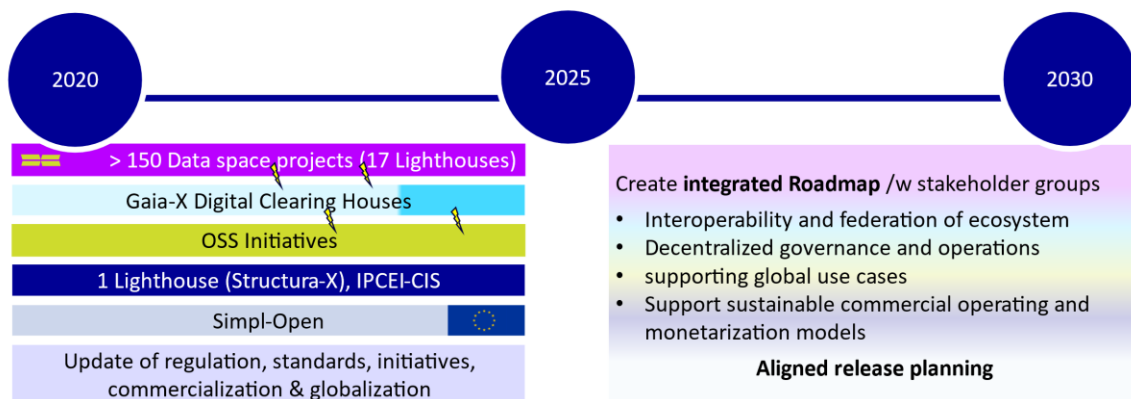
The [campus](#), the [Gaia-X Academy](#) and the [training area](#) of the French hub offer learning opportunities on data spaces and Gaia-X.

3. Technical progress and cooperation

Roadmap until 2030

In recent weeks, the Technical Committee of the Gaia-X Association has started to develop an integrative roadmap for the coming months and years. To this end, it has analysed and bundled all available documents, technologies and architectures for data spaces in order to create a solid foundation. It considered not only implementations based on Gaia-X, but also other methodological approaches that enable data exchange. This conceptual work included, for example, the various AISBL architecture documents, new requirements such as the “Geography & Domain Extensions” and external initiatives such as [Simpl](#) and [iSHARE](#). The result of this work will be a so-called “**refactored architecture document**”, which is expected to be completed by the end of April. It will describe the Gaia-X architecture in a way that it is as consistent and compatible as possible with existing implementations. From May 2025, the Technical Committee will use the refactored architecture document to determine which developments and topics will be prioritized in the roadmap. Examples of this could be the [eIDAS 2.0](#) regulation or the work with the [Data Spaces Business Alliance \(DSBA\)](#).

Technical Committee Roadmap
From incubation to global, industrial scale



Call: If new topics from the Gaia-X community are to be included in the Gaia-X architecture, please submit a ‘Requirement’ via the Gaia-X Member’s Platform.



All AISBL architecture documents can be found here: <https://docs.gaia-x.eu/>

Cooperation with other data space initiatives

Since the beginning of the year, the Technical Committee has been working very closely with [the DSBA \(Data Spaces Business Alliance\)](#) organisations: the [International Data Space Association \(IDSA\)](#), the [Big Data Value Association \(BDVA\)](#), and [Fiware](#). Together, they are examining how the organisations can complement each other, become interoperable and how Gaia-X can be easily integrated.

The aim is to combine the complementary solution sets of the four initiatives into a single consistent framework that creates a **complete offering for dataspaces**. At the Data Spaces Symposium in Warsaw in March, they presented the results so far and showed how the individual work of the different associations interlocks. The goal now is to clearly define and distribute the strengths and tasks of each organisation. A common (technical) **trust framework** and a consistent definition of various necessary (communication) protocols and standards (such as the **Dataspace Protocol**) are planned. These should serve as the basis for all data space initiatives and enable the data space governance authorities to digitally define their data space rules and regulations. This allows participants to negotiate data exchange and sharing based on their selected trusted services.

Further topics of the Technical Committee

The Technical Committee is also working on the following topics, which we have summarised for you here:

- **Interoperability:** To promote interoperability, the Technical Committee is working on [the Eclipse Conformity Assessment Policy and Credential Profile “CAP project”](#). It is developing a stable ontology to automate sets of rules for digital ecosystems (including data spaces). This ontology is on its way to becoming an ISO standard.
- **Standardisation:** The AISBL is involved in the CEN/CENELEC Collective Working Agreement (CWA) on [Trusted Data Transactions](#). The accession or direct participation of natural persons in data spaces is currently being discussed.
- **Data Act:** Gaia-X continues to be involved in the CEN/CENELEC [Joint Technical Committee “JTC25”](#), which this year is discussing, among other things, the EU Commission's standardisation request regarding the Data Act.
- **Participant Credential:** The Policy & Rules Committee (PRC) is working intensively on the reintroduction of the Gaia-X Participant Credential (formerly Gaia-X Participant Self-Description in Tagus Trust Framework Document 22.10). It will be included in the new Loire Compliance Document 25.03, which is essential for the operationalisation of Loire and the migration from Tagus to Loire. Without the Participant Credential, no use cases can be implemented in Loire.
- **Wizard:** The <https://wizard.lab.gaia-x.eu/>Loire Credential Wizard has been released to reduce the technical complexity of the Compliance Document 24.11. The wizard teaches you how to certify your services, for example as a cloud service provider, in the Loire release and make them compliant.

4. Policy & Rules: New approaches and participation opportunities

New AISBL certification programs

The AISBL has launched two new certification programmes: “**Gaia-X Advisors**” and “**Gaia-X Orchestrators**”, which are available through the [Gaia-X Academy](#). The programme for Gaia-X Advisors offers three specialisations: Functional Advisor, Technical Advisor and Business Advisor. These programmes aim to create a comprehensive and attractive certification specifically tailored to the roles of “Gaia-X Advisors” and “Orchestrators”. They provide in-depth content to help participants understand the role of Gaia-X Advisors in bridging technology and knowledge gaps to promote interoperability. They also show how data space orchestrators enable smooth data exchange, governance and collaboration. Through the Gaia-X Academy, consultants and orchestrators can **certify** and offer their services and consulting offerings.



In Q2 the AISBL publishes a **new Compliance Document** 25.03, which includes the following changes:

- Reintroduction of the Participant Criteria (for sector-specific participants and natural persons). This makes it possible to issue Loire-compliant Gaia-X Participant Credentials.

In Q4 the AISBL is planning a further update of the Compliance Document:

- Innovations to the Geographical und Domain Extensions
- Updates to the sustainability criteria (rewording and, if necessary, change of mandatory status).
- Revision of all existing framework documents to make them more consistent, compact and easier to read

Possible participation: Policy & Rules Committee

The Policy and Rules Committee is currently working in two sprints:

1. **Labels Operationalization Sprint** (led by Catherine Simonnin, Orange Business). Participation in the sprint on Thursdays at 10:00 am. Contact: Przemek.halub@gaia-x.eu.

The sprint will focus on the following topics:

- Adjustments and improvements to the Participant Credential
- Review of the optional sustainability criteria, as they are mandatory for many companies and can be an additional quality label.
- Gap CABs (Conformity Assessment Bodies) still lack standards such as ISO. These gaps will be closed via a detailed accreditation and operationalization process, which will be developed in the sprint.

2. **Geographical and Domain Extension Sprint** (led by Bert Verdonck, LNDS). Participation in the sprint on Mondays at 4pm and Fridays at 2pm. Contact: Przemek.halub@gaia-x.eu.

This sprint is currently working on the aforementioned white paper “Geographical and Domain Extensions of the Gaia-X Framework” (see page 3), which will be presented to the AISBL Board of Directors meeting at the end of April.



Another way to get involved in the Gaia-X community is to attend the open-source community meeting every Thursday from 09:00-09:45. No Gaia-X membership is required for this, registration via kai@delta-dao.com

5. EU Data Act: Goals and Implementation

Regulations and entry into force of the Data Act

Together with the Data Governance Act, the **Data Act** is a key pillar of the European Data Strategy. It lays the foundation for a single digital market and a fair data economy in Europe. The Data Act entered into force on 11 January 2024 but will only **apply from 12 September 2025**. It applies to all sectors but allows for additional sector-specific regulations. The aim is to remove barriers that hinder control and transparency, make data exchange more difficult and limit the interoperability of cloud services.

Specifically, the Data Act promotes the **targeted transfer of data, access to data by public institutions** and the **removal of barriers to switching between different services**. Manufacturers of connected products, providers of connected services, users, data owners and data recipients, public institutions and providers of data processing services are affected.

The Data Act **strengthens the rights of users**: they can access the data generated by their products - directly through the product or indirectly, e.g. through an online portal, and pass it on to third parties, such as maintenance and repair services). In emergency situations, public authorities can request data and obtain access to data that is necessary, for example, to deal with such situations. In addition, the Data Act obliges providers of data processing services (e.g. cloud providers) to make it possible to change provider free of charge. They must also provide transparent information.

Data spaces as solution

The comprehensive obligation to provide and share data makes bilateral solutions and proprietary interfaces impracticable in the long term. This is where data spaces offer an effective solution. Data spaces that are structured according to the Gaia-X principles rely on **open standards, data sovereignty, transparency, cataloguing and interoperability**. They can thus facilitate compliance with the Data Act.

The Data Act opens up great opportunities for data spaces and decentralised data ecosystems and also promotes these approaches at a **regulatory level**.



Read more about the Data Act in our blog series:

<https://gaia-x-hub.de/gx-praxis/schluss-mit-datensilos-der-eu-data-act-erzwingt-digitale-oeffnung/>