

# Gaia-X – Current Developments

**Info briefing**

**As of October 2025**

### About the info briefing

The info briefing explains the latest developments at Gaia-X and is based on the Hubdate of September 26, 2025. It summarizes the news from Gaia-X Hub Germany and the Gaia-X Association (AISBL) as well as developments from the committees – Technical Committee, Services and Business Committee, and Policy and Rules Committee. It also explains the added value of the SmartLivingNEXT data space.

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### Glossary

In the Gaia-X context, **Core Engine** refers to the essential software components and services that form the backbone of a federated data infrastructure. It enables various participants (cloud providers, data providers, users, etc.) to collaborate securely and autonomously, as well as to exchange data in a sovereign manner.

# 1. News from Gaia-X AISBL

## Meeting of the Gaia-X Board of Directors

On September 11, the Gaia-X Board of Directors met for a regular meeting at Airbus in Toulouse. One of the goals was to analyze how added value for Gaia-X members can be realized more quickly. The Board also defined the next strategic priorities in the Gaia-X strategy. The discussion showed that end-user acceptance and the growth of the Gaia-X ecosystems are of utmost importance. Three key areas for action were identified:

- Further development and promotion of compliance by design
- Coordination of data space responsibilities and Gaia-X responsibilities
- Supporting acceptance through orchestrators

The Board of Directors also introduced a new working method to address these priorities in a targeted manner. In the future, the agenda will follow a three-month cycle with changing focus topics geared toward users, providers, and orchestrators.

This approach takes into account the specific needs of the groups, creates a common understanding of the big picture, and strengthens market acceptance of Gaia-X.

## Gaia-X Summit on November 20 and 21 in Porto, Portugal

The sixth Gaia-X Summit will take place on November 20 and 21 in Porto, Portugal, in collaboration with Gaia-X Hub Portugal and Porto Digital. Under the motto "Digital Ecosystems in Action," the event will highlight topics such as AI and data sovereignty. In addition, experts will present data space initiatives that use Gaia-X to drive innovation in Europe and worldwide.



Registration is available at <https://gaia-x.eu/summit-2025/registration/>.

Due to limited seating, separate registration is required for the side event "Dinner on the Boat" on November 20 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.: <https://gaia-x.eu/summit-2025/boat-dinner/>

# 2. Developments from the Gaia-X Committees

## Updates from the Technical Committee

The Gaia-X 3.0 "Danube" software release will be published in the coming weeks. It expands the existing implementation and architecture of the Core Trust Framework of the Gaia-X Compliance Document (the criteria of the Gaia-X Compliance Document itself will not be changed) and introduces a significant innovation: ecosystems will now be able to determine for themselves which requirements their participants must meet and define their own specific rules. This is made possible by a complete separation of (compliance) rules and technical compatibility. The new "Gaia-X Core Engine" allows different compliance engines to be implemented and controlled. This fulfils (as far as can be specified) the requirements of the white paper of the "Geographical and Domain Extension Sprint" of the Policy and Rules Committee (PRC) – see next section.

This represents a fundamental change in approach compared to versions 1.0 ("Tagus") and 2.0 ("Loire"). Since the development of the "Danube" release is being driven very closely by concrete requirements from data spaces and ecosystem initiatives in the spirit of co-innovation, the Gaia-X Core Engine will be further developed step by step in the form of *minor releases* such as version 3.1 or 3.2. In addition, the Gaia-X Core Engine will provide a library of frequently used functions, such as resolving did:web identifiers or verifying electronic certificates (*verifiable credentials*). Technical interoperability remains guaranteed at all times through the use of the Gaia-X architecture.

The updated [Data Exchange Document 25.07](#) has also been published. The basic structure remains unchanged, but the descriptions of the Data Exchange Service Specifications have been clarified and made more detailed. A new feature is the Data Usage Agreement (DUA), which explains how the sovereignty of data owners is preserved. Specific application descriptions have also been added. The Service Characteristics working group is also discussing the development of a generic service ontology that could emerge from the Service Credentials and Data Product Credentials. This ontology could link the Service Credentials with the ICT services within the Danube framework.

## Updates from the Policy and Rules Committee

### Geographical and Domain Extension Sprint

Following the publication of [White Paper 2.0](#) on geographical and domain extensions, the technical implementation of the extension mechanism is now underway (the first technical implementation is available with the Gaia-X 3.0 "Danube" release – see the section on TC above). This requires a detailed analysis of the scenarios and the defined business and technical requirements. The focus is on collecting concrete use cases and user stories that serve as the basis for the detailed requirements structure. This forms the input for the implementation roadmap. The following use cases are currently running: Aerospace-X and European Rail Data Space for domain extensions, and South Korea, Japan, and Switzerland for geographic extensions. In addition, a discussion about European values in the extensions has been initiated.

### Labels Operationalization Sprint

This sprint continues the work on operationalizing the label, with a focus on services, alignment with the Gaia-X Digital Clearing Houses (GXDCs) compliance engine, the conformity scheme, and the minimum interoperability requirements (MIC). The criteria are currently being reviewed, and initial merge requests were presented at the PRC meeting on September 10. No changes were made; instead, the descriptions of label level compliance were merely supplemented to support technical implementation.

### Data Act Alignment Sprint

This new sprint, led by Alban Schmutz, began before the summer, as the Data Act came into force in September 2025. The overall goal of the sprint is to review the Data Act and the Gaia-X Framework to identify commonalities, dependencies, and interactions. This analysis has already been completed. Both artifacts should be compatible, and the Gaia-X Framework should fit into the overall requirements of the Data Act. To this end, potential requirements within the Data Act are assigned to the current version of the compliance document. An interactive approach makes it possible to keep track of the incremental development process and schedule. Before the Gaia-X Summit, the easily achievable goals are to be identified and the first recommendations and improvements for the compliance document prepared. At the Gaia-X Summit, the way forward will also be presented, based on feedback and previous results. Further analysis will then continue as part of the sprint.

## Status update from the open-source software community

Since August 2025, Petteri Kivimäki, Nordic Institute for Interoperability Solutions (NIIS), and Gerald Ristow, Research Association for Electrical Engineering at ZVEI e.V., have taken over the leadership of the open-source software community. Christoph Strnadl, CTO of the Gaia-X Association, is active in the community on behalf of Gaia-X. The community is international, with around 30 active members from countries such as Japan.

The following topics were discussed at the community's most recent open-source software meeting:

- JWT tool that supports the creation of Loire credentials
- Gaia-X statement on the Microsoft patent on data spaces and tips on how to use it
- Integration of participant credentials into the Compliance Engine 2.8.1
- Presentation of FACIS and how they reuse XFSC
- The EU project OSAwards and how to get involved
- Updates from the [Gaia-X Glossary](#)



Anyone interested in getting involved in the Gaia-X community can dial in to **the open-source community meeting** every Thursday from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. Gaia-X membership is not required to participate. To register, please visit [gerald.ristow@web.de](mailto:gerald.ristow@web.de) . You can also subscribe to the following mailing list: <https://list.gaia-x.eu/postorius/lists/> or join the [Slack channel](#). [Gitlab](#) is also available for viewing.

### 3. Added value of the SmartLivingNEXT data space

The SmartLivingNEXT project is a BMWF-funded technology program for the development of a socially beneficial AI-enabled digital ecosystem in residential and residential-like environments. It is working on a Gaia-X-compliant solution in which data remains in its original systems and under the strict control of the data owners. The vision is therefore a universal access point for all residential data that can connect private smart home components with professional building solutions. Building on this infrastructure, any smart living services can be set up across industries. The requirements of the Data Act are a prerequisite. For 2026, the project aims to discuss how market-driven entities can be introduced to the market.



If you would like to find out more about SmartLivingNEXT, visit the website [www.smartlivingnext.de](http://www.smartlivingnext.de), [LinkedIn](#), or the Gaia-X Summit on November 20-21 in Porto. If you would like to become an associated partner, please contact [projektbuero@smartlivingnext.de](mailto:projektbuero@smartlivingnext.de) directly.

## 4. News from the Gaia-X Hub Germany

### Publications

In recent weeks and months, Gaia-X Hub Germany has published three position papers from different domains: [planning, construction, and operation, aerospace](#) and [cross-domain smart cities/smart regions, the public sector, and energy](#). The Hub has also published several blog posts, such as the presentation of an "AI-supported tool for efficient administration," an explanation of how the TELLUS funding project solves complex Internet requirements, and how the data space connects culture: "Sustainable data infrastructure for museums, music, and theater." An overview of all publications can be found here:

Date	Topic	Organization
May 13	<a href="#">Position paper from the aerospace domain: Data spaces for a sustainable aerospace industry</a>	Gaia-X Hub
May 15	<a href="#">Planning, Construction, and Operation Domain Position Paper 2025</a>	Gaia-X Hub
May 26	<a href="#">AI-supported tool developed for efficient administration</a>	Gaia-X Hub
August 20	<a href="#">How TELLUS solves complex internet requirements</a>	Gaia-X Hub
August 27	<a href="#">Data space Culture connects: Future-proof data infrastructure for museums, music, and theater</a>	Gaia-X Hub
September 30	<a href="#">Position paper Smart City / Smart Region, Public Sector, Energy</a>	Gaia-X Hub

### Community map

The Gaia-X Hub Germany [community map](#) has been in existence since 2024, providing an overview of the various Gaia-X stakeholders in Germany. For example, companies involved in Gaia-X funding projects are presented here. Additional stakeholders from the community can be added on an ongoing basis. Please feel free to contact [krieg@acatech.de](mailto:krieg@acatech.de).

### Online Campus for Data Economy

In 2025, Gaia-X Hub Germany launched a [free online campus for data economy](#). Interested parties can explore the basics of data economy as well as the concepts of data spaces and data ecosystems. The range of online courses is continuously being expanded – all courses are free of charge and available in German and English without registration. The campus is aimed at interested parties from politics, administration, science, and business who would like to familiarize themselves with the topic without in-depth IT knowledge. Campus Course 2, "In-depth Data Economy Architecture, Actors, and Economic Efficiency of data spaces," has been online since August.

Starting in mid-October, Course 3 will be available with three lessons on different use cases: "Secondary use of health data," "CO<sub>2</sub>-footprint in product development," and "Flexibilization of energy systems."



Learning opportunities on data spaces and Gaia-X are offered by: the [Campus](#), the [Gaia-X Academy](#), and the [training area](#) of the French hub. Since the beginning of September, [Fraunhofer IOSB-AST](#) has also been offering two practice-oriented [workshops](#) that show how data spaces can be implemented and used in companies.

## Event preview

Date	Location	Event	Registration
October 16	Friedrichshafen	<b>Gaia-X Roadshow</b> "Living in a forward-looking way: Data spaces for health and medical care at home"	<a href="#">here</a>
November 18	Bremen	<b>Gaia-X Roadshow</b> "Driving Force Data – The Booster for Aerospace Business Innovation"	<a href="#">here</a>
November 20–21	Porto, Portugal	<b>Gaia-X Summit</b>	<a href="#">here</a>
December 3	Berlin	<b>Gaia-X Roadshow</b> "Data exchange as an opportunity: Ecological and economic added value for energy companies"	<a href="#">here</a>