

Digital Sovereignty – Wishful thinking or reality?

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CSI Piemonte

6 May 2026

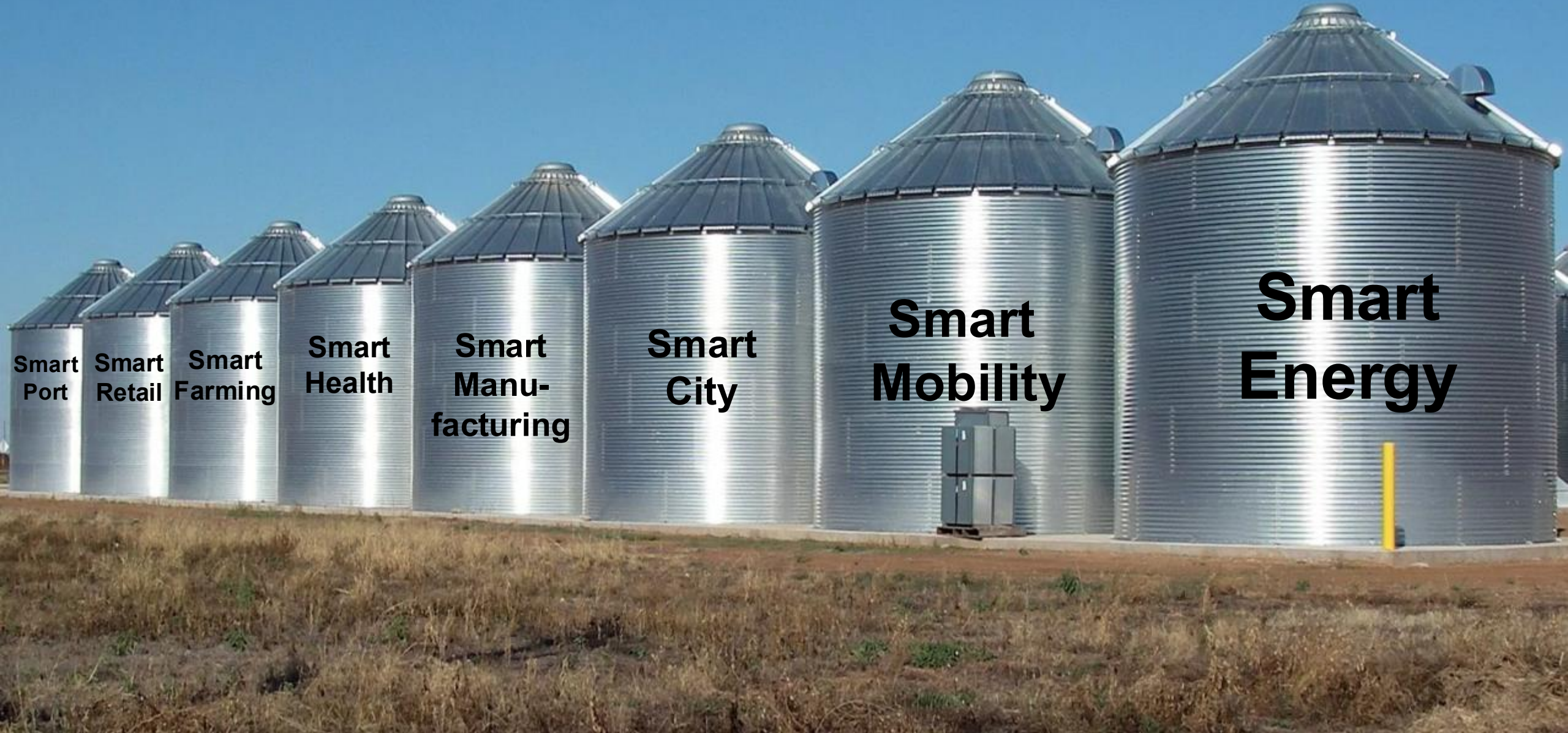
Ulrich Ahle | CEO Gaia-X

Our new Digital Life is gravitating around Data.

Data describing what is going on, where, when, why ...



Today data are very often organized in silos



**Smart
Port**

**Smart
Retail**

**Smart
Farming**

**Smart
Health**

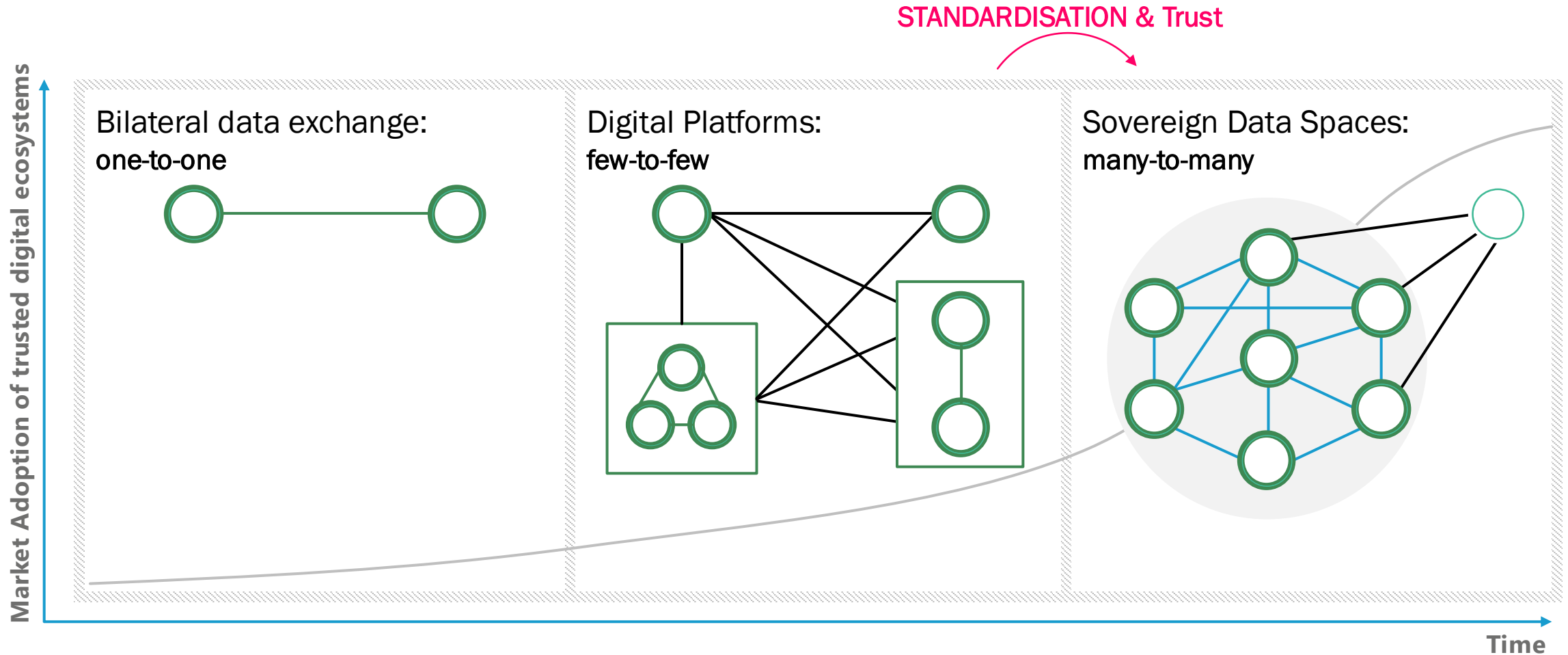
**Smart
Manu-
facturing**

**Smart
City**

**Smart
Mobility**

**Smart
Energy**

The demand for Sovereign Data Spaces



Gaia-X: A global member driven association



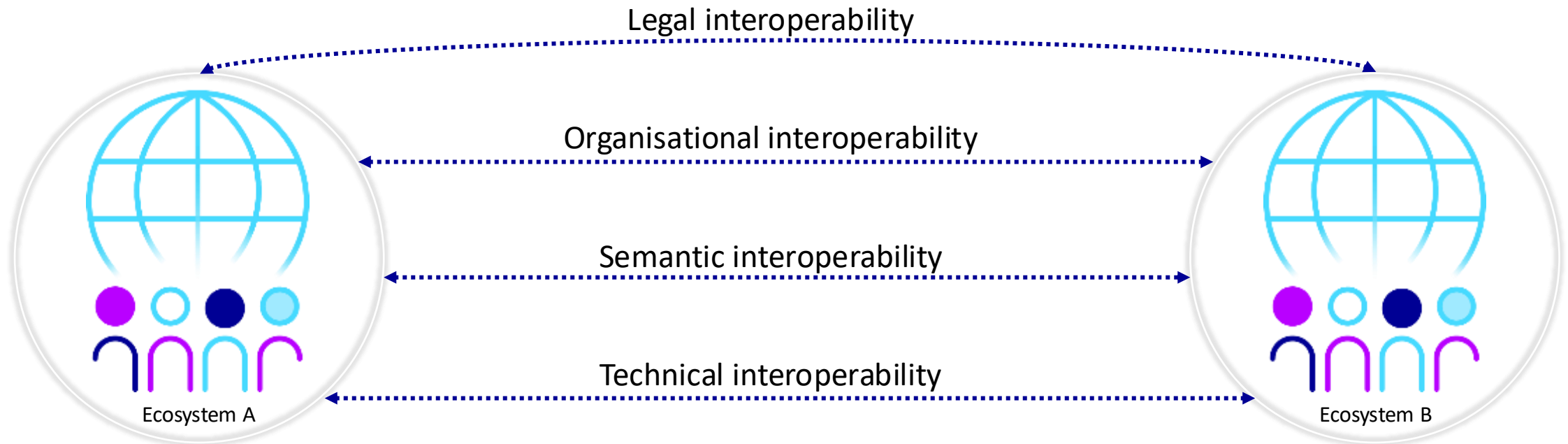
- **Founded 2021** in Europe by 11 French and 11 German organisations
- **Today +220 members** from around the world



VISION: Enable trusted decentralized digital ecosystems

MISSION: Creating the *de facto* standard to enable a **federated and trusted data infrastructure**, by developing a set of specifications, rules, policies, and a verification framework

Data interoperability is enabled by four different layers



Gaia-X Compliance document.



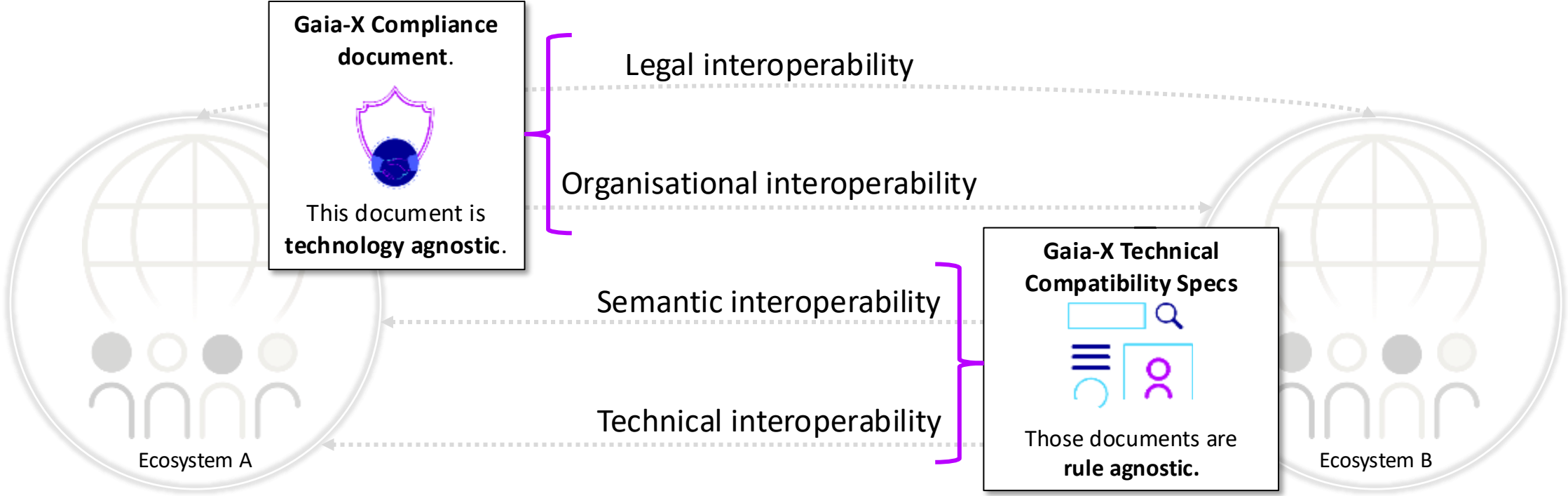
This document is **technology agnostic.**

Gaia-X Technical Compatibility Specs



Those documents are **rule agnostic.**

Data interoperability is enabled by four different layers



Gaia-X Digital Clearing House to implement Automated Compliance



⇒ **Fully Open-Source Software**

⇒ **Worldwide adoption ready**

- Decentralised data layer for the Gaia-X Registry scalability and information consistency. (e.g.: EU <-> Korea)
- Support for European and non-European national Trust Service Providers.



FOCUS ON END USER SERVICES

The Gaia-X Compliance Document is based on end user requirements



- ⇒ 62 Criteria are paving the way for **Digital Sovereignty** and **Automated Compliance in Europe**
- ⇒ Compliance documents for regions outside of Europe with other legislations to be developed by the regions with support from Gaia-X (starting with Japan, Korea, Brazil and Canada)












	STANDARD COMPLIANCE	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Declaration of Service or Product	✓	✓	✓	✓
Signed with verified method (e.g. eIDAS)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Automated validation by GXDCH	✓	✓	✓	✓
Automated verification by GXDCH*	✓	✓	+	+
Data Exchange Policies	✓	✓	✓	✓
Certified Label Logo		✓	✓	✓
Data protection by EU legislation		✓	✓	✓
Manual verification by CAB			✓	✓
Provider Headquarter within EU				✓

*not all criteria can be automated, “+” means automated verification of the evidence issuer (Standard & CAB)

Gaia-X Digital Clearing House Providers



In production

 GXDC by Aire Networks	 GXDC by ARSYS	 GXDC by ARUBA	 GXDC by CISPE
 GXDC by deltaDAO	 GXDC by Neusta	 GXDC by NTT DATA	 GXDC by OVHcloud
 GXDC by Pfalzkom	 GXDC by Proximus	 GXDC by T-Systems	

Signed in deployment




Pipeline

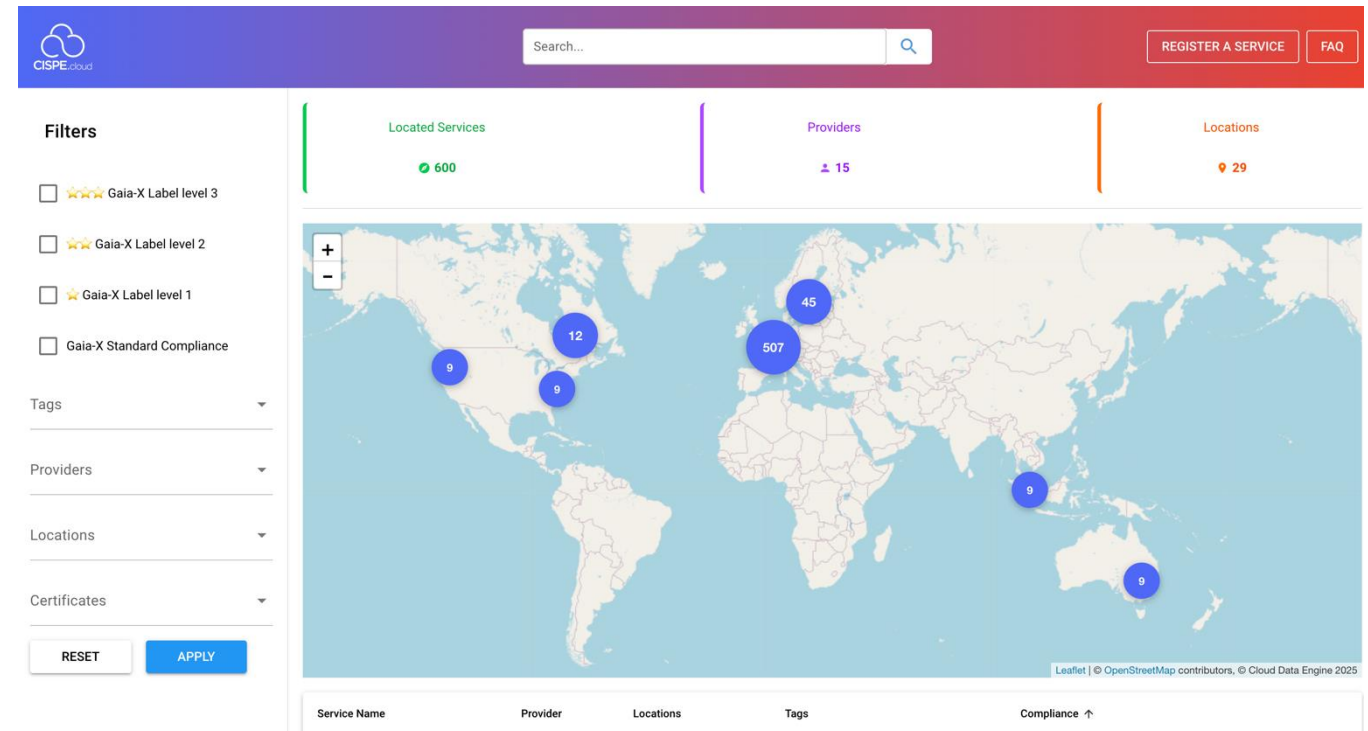



The Catalogue of Gaia-X Compliant Services on the Market



CISPE Catalogue

- This is the first catalogue of services listing **Gaia-X Compliance version 2025**.
- The Gaia-X Compliance version 2025 extends its scope to include **sustainability** and **sovereignty** criteria.
- 600 Services
- 15 Providers
- 5 Providers offering Gaia-X Label Level 3



Governmental Advisory Board, 16.04.2026, Brussels



European Commission and 9 member state representatives confirmed the start of Season 2.0 of Data Spaces & Digital Ecosystems

- **Season 1.0** produced
 - an **aligned architecture** to build interoperable data spaces
 - available **Open Source** software building blocks
 - **Gaia-X Trust Framework**
 - Successful reference implementations of Data Spaces build on a federated Cloud infrastucture
- **Season 2.0** of Data Spaces is on adoption



The result: trust becomes automated, digital sovereignty becomes actionable, and Europe's digital future can be built on solid, shared foundations.

Lighthouse Ecosystems 1

AgrospAI
Agriculture

Catena-X
Automotive Supply Chain

COOPERANTS
Aeronautics, Space Sector

dynamo
Infrastructure & Technology

PONTUS-X
Manufacturing, Industry 4.0, AI & Cloud Services, Mobility, Aeronautics & Space, Agriculture

RegenAg-X
Agriculture

Qualified Projects 3

FAIR Data Spaces
Research, Infrastructure & Technology

Lighthouse Projects 2

ACCURATE
Manufacturing

Boot-X
Infrastructure & Technology

COMMUNITY-X
Smart Cities

DATASPACE 4HEALTH
Health

Data4 NUCLEAR X
Energy

Data4 Industry-X
Manufacturing, Industry 4.0

DIGITAL TER-X 2020
Construction

EMPOWER-X
Energy

EONA-X
Mobility, Transport & Tourism

energy data-X
Energy

EuPro Gigant
Manufacturing, Industry 4.0

EuroDaT
Finance

Flex4Res
Manufacturing

future mobility
Mobility & Transport

HEALTH-X dataLOFT
Health

InfraDS
Cloud Services, Infrastructures Data Space

Mobility Data Space
Mobility

omega-x
Energy

PROMETHEUS-X
Education

SCSN
smart connected supplier network
Manufacturing

SHOES-X
Infrastructure & Technology

Sovereign Cloud Stack
Cloud Services

Structura-X
Cloud Services

TEAM-X
Health

DECADE-X
Digital Ecosystem for Automotive and Defense
Application received

Community-X Project: Evolution of the FIWARE-based digital platform in Etteln to a Gaia-X compliant Data Space

- Etteln has won the global IEEE Smart City Contest end of 2024 with the city of Hong Kong on position #2
- **Community-X** is shaping the digital future and will implement the first municipal data space in Europe with focus on Smart City applications, Energy, and Mobility

The result will be a **municipal data space** serving as a **blueprint** for other municipalities enabling **digital sovereignty for citizens.**





SUMMIT ON EUROPEAN DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY



 **SUMMIT ON EUROPEAN
DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY**

 **SUMMIT ON EUROPEAN
DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY**

Gaia-X

**Sovereign data
exchange for Europe**

Gaia-X represents trusted, open, and interoperable data spaces in Europe. Using the example of Community-X, the emerging municipal data space in the award-winning digital village of Etteln, Gaia-X demonstrates how data can be leveraged to enhance quality of life, promote sustainability, and advance a sovereign European digital economy.

Gaia-X



COMMUNITY-X
BLUEPRINT
SMART CITY DATA SPACES



ETTELN



COMMUNITY-X
BLUEPRINT
SMART CITY DATA SPACES



COMMUNITY-X
BLUEPRINT
SMART CITY DATA SPACES

SMART
powered by Gaia-X



ETTELN

DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY
FEDERAL DATA

24

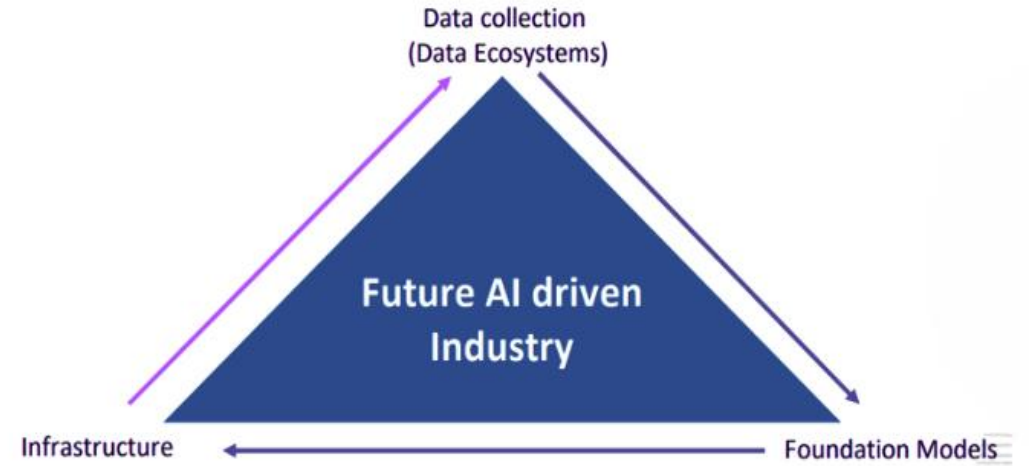




Data Spaces and AI

Europe as an AI Continent

- The **Data Union Strategy** highlights the need for trusted data, computing power, and European AI models
- Gaia-X supports this vision with sovereign and trusted data & infrastructure for AI
- IPCEI-AI is coordinating the activities



(*) **Yvo Volman** - 3rd Conference on "Sustainable Development of Data-Sharing Ecosystems" – Paris Dauphine Univ.

Data Spaces

- Trusted, shared data
- Governance & sovereignty
- Interoperability

Generative AI

- Content generation
- Insights & patterns
- Context-aware outputs

Agentic AI

- Autonomous decisions
- Multi-step workflows
- Cross-system actions

Gaia-X Tech-X & Hackathon #9

28–29 May 2026 | Athens, Greece

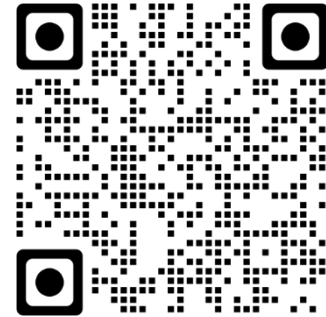
In partnership with Gaia-X Hub Greece, operated by Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems & Automation (LMS)



Two days of technical presentations and interactive sessions for the Gaia-X community

Call for proposals and registration are now open!

- **Main stage** for presentations, or also more interactive forms of engagement with the audience, and
- **Hackathon** – All *hacks* will be evaluated by a jury, with the three best *hacks* being rewarded 🏆
 - Hackathon #9 prizes (🏆 €5,000 / 🏆 €3,000 / 🏆 €1,500) for innovative solutions



Tech-X & Hackathon #9 2026 28-29 ATHENS MAY GREECE

In partnership with



Gaia-X Summit 2026



19–20 November 2026 | Vienna, Austria

In partnership with Gaia-X Hub Austria, operated by **AIT** Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH

Under the theme “**Season 2.0 of Sovereign, Trusted AI & Data Ecosystems**”, the summit will explore trusted data access, AI value creation, and collaborative digital ecosystems in Europe.



The Gaia-X Hubs

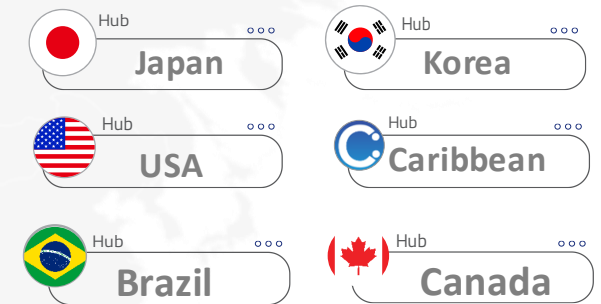
Connecting local ecosystems to a global community



EUROPE 19



INTERNATIONAL 6



IN PROGRESS 4



[Learn more about hubs here](#)

Thank you!

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