



ENDORSE

THE EUROPEAN DATA CONFERENCE ON REFERENCE DATA AND SEMANTICS

Agenda

- Introduction
- The European data space landscape
- What's a data space then and why do we need them?
- Data Spaces Support Centre and Simpl
- What's next for the two initiatives
- Q&A



The European data space landscape



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Data is a pillar of EU competitiveness

Data is *crucial* for AI

“Companies in Europe struggle to get access to the data they need – while large foreign tech companies use European data to fuel their business.”

Political Guidelines, July 2024



Those who can freely access new research, increasingly **accurate data**, and more efficient technologies can **innovate more quickly**, improve their processes, and **maintain competitiveness** in the global market.

Letta report, April 2024



The EU should **promote cross-industry coordination and data sharing to accelerate the integration of AI** into European industry.

Draghi report, September 2024

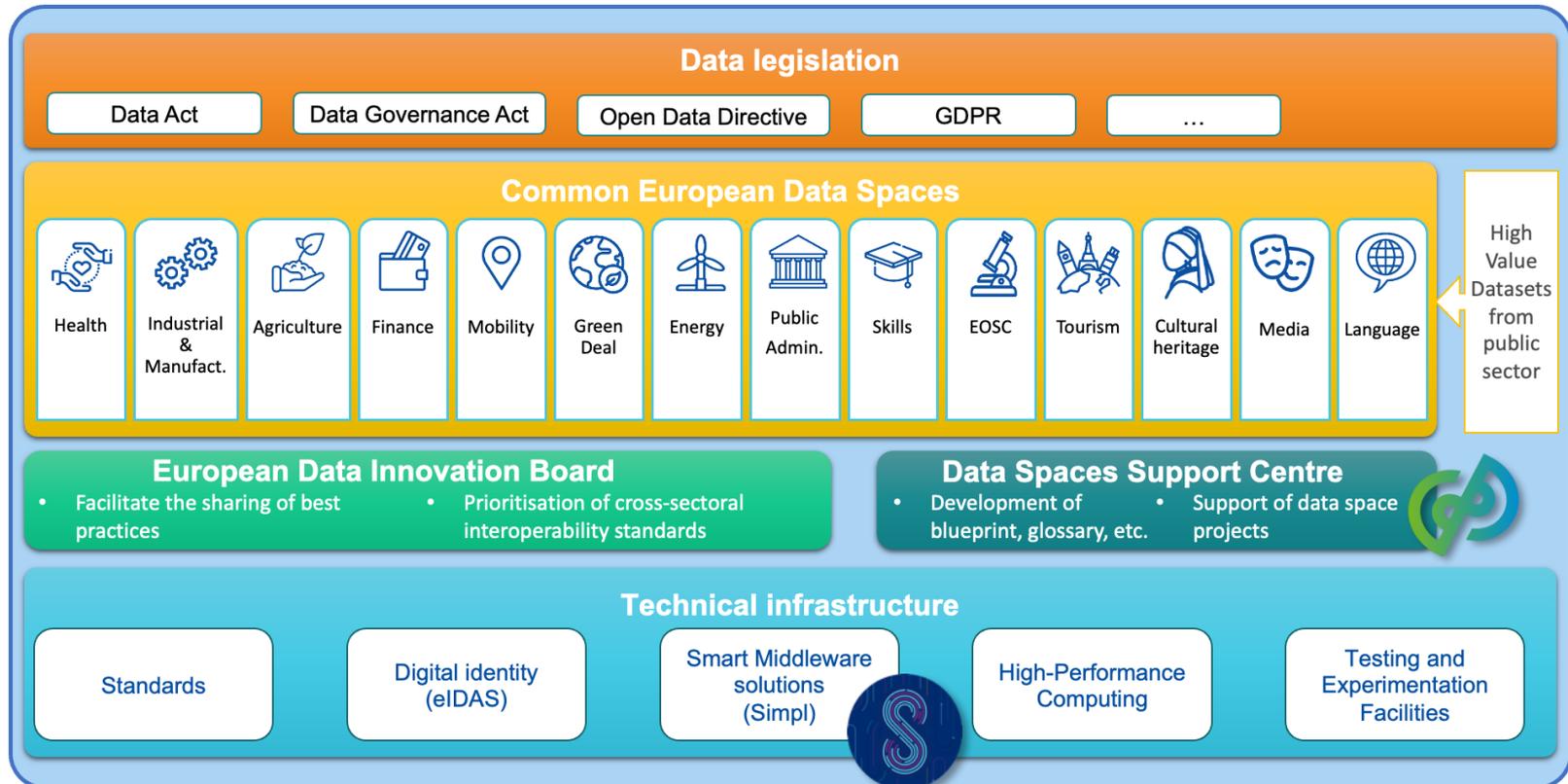
“You will present a **European Data Union Strategy** drawing on existing data rules to ensure a simplified, clear and coherent legal framework for businesses and administrations to share data seamlessly and at scale, while respecting high privacy and security standards.”

Mission Letter to Henna Virkkunen
EVP for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy

The consultation is open until 18 July 2025 at
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14541-European-Data-Union-Strategy_en



Positioning of the DSSC and Simpl within the EU Data Strategy



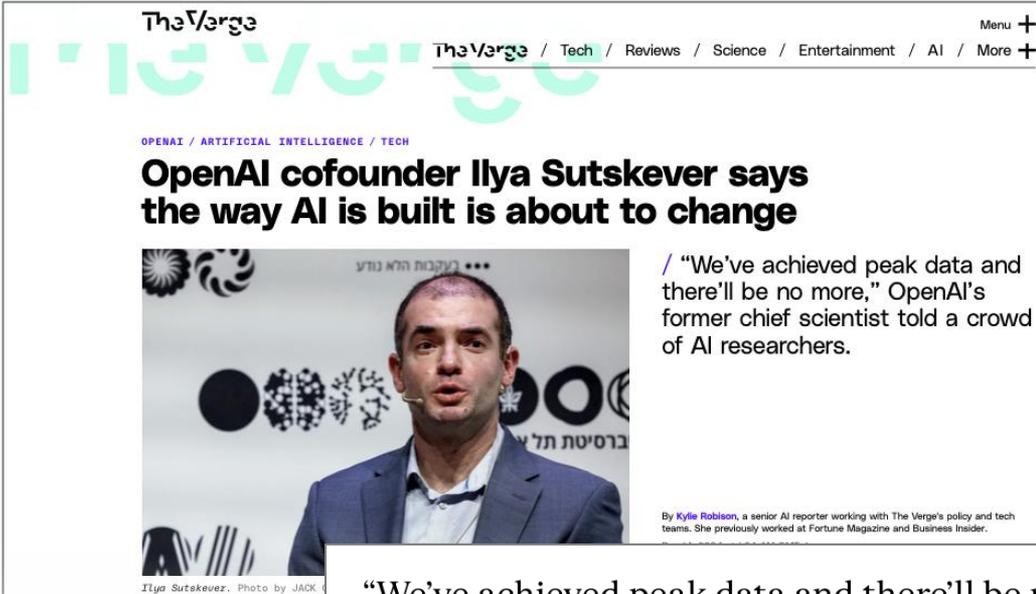


**What's a data space
then and why do we
need them?**



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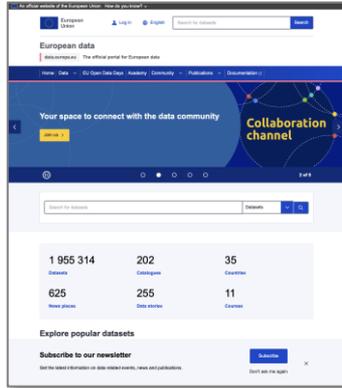
“Data is the fossil fuel of AI”



Source: The Verge,
<https://www.theverge.com/2024/12/13/24320811/what-ilya-sutskever-sees-openai-model-data-training>, published 14 December 2024. Video of the presentation at <https://youtu.be/1yvBqasHLZs>, last accessed 15 December 2024.

“We’ve achieved peak data and there’ll be no more,” according to Sutskever. “We have to deal with the data that we have. There’s only one internet.”

Where to find data to feed our applications?



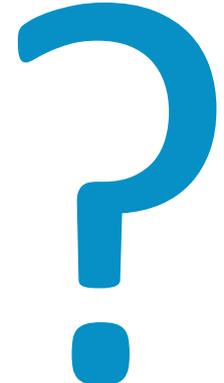
Re-using open and reference data, for example on data.europa.eu...



Scraping publicly available sources...



Licensing commercially available sources in traditional data sharing platforms...



Where else?

Where to find data to feed our applications?



Data sharing in platforms

Where to find data to feed our applications?



Collaborative data sharing
in data spaces



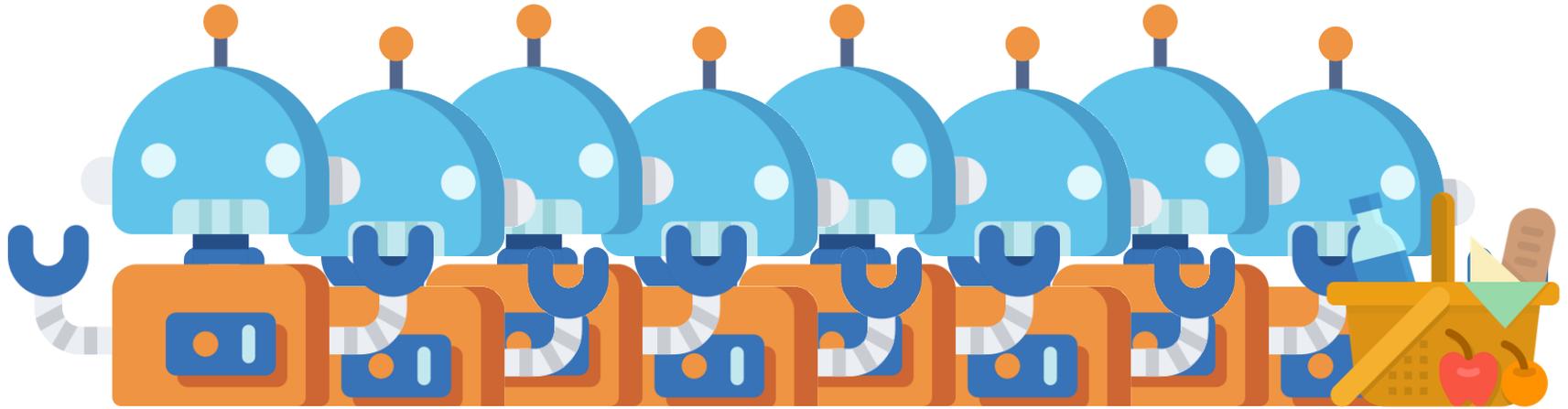
What's a data space?

A data space is an **interoperable framework** based on common **governance principles, standards, practices and enabling services**, that enables **trusted data transactions** between **participants**.

CEN/CENELEC Workshop Agreement (CWA) 18125 on “Trusted Data Transaction”
https://www.cencenelec.eu/media/CEN-CENELEC/CWAs/RI/2024/cwa18125_2024.pdf

Collaborative data sharing
in data spaces

What's a data space?



(Automated) collaborative data sharing (at scale) in data spaces

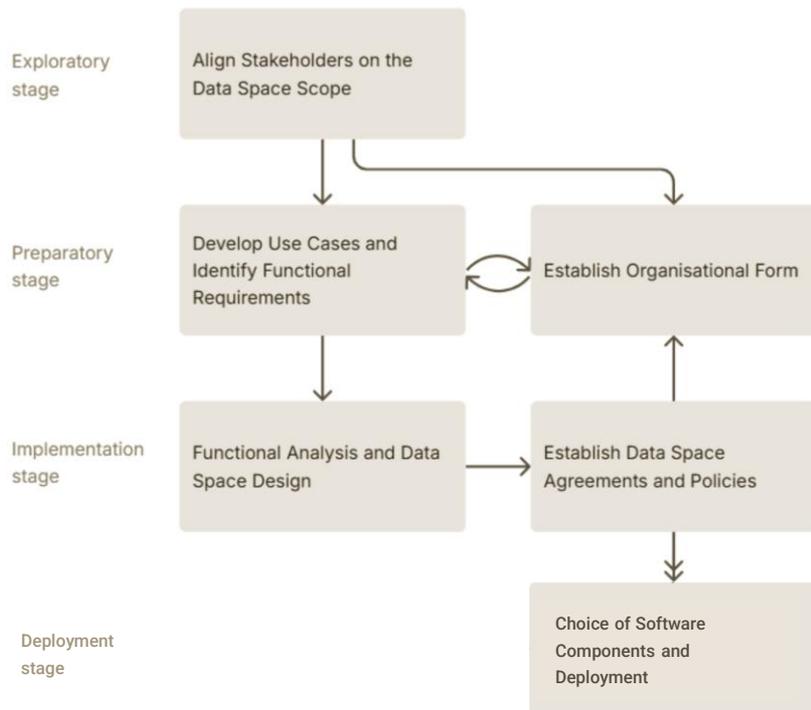


Data Spaces Support Centre and Simpl



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The European Commission's efforts to promote and support data space development

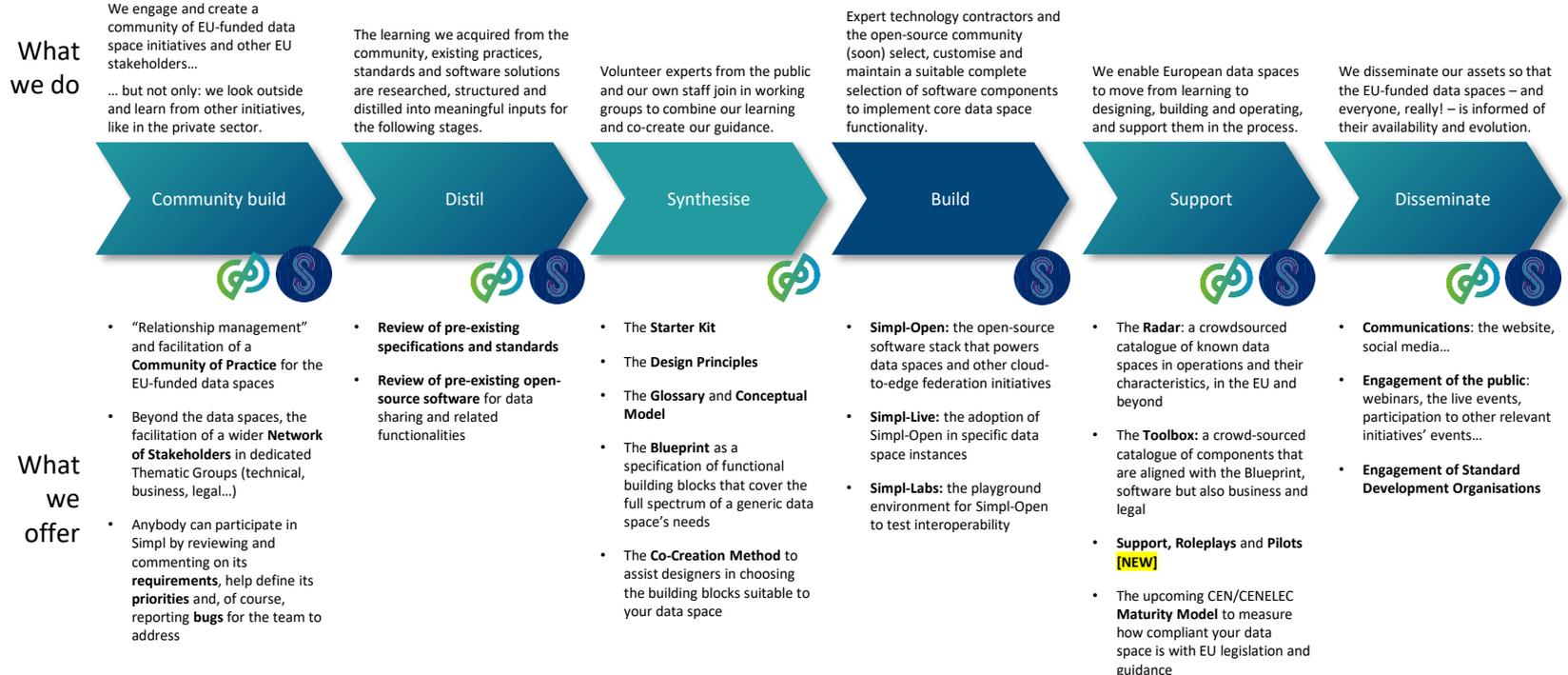


- Digital Europe grant
- Aimed at coordinating and supporting the EU-funded Common European Data Spaces
- Started Oct 2022; a new grant to be awarded to continue project until 2028



- Digital Europe procurement
- Aimed at developing Simpl-Open (middleware), Simpl-Labs (testing platform) & accompanying some data spaces via Simpl-Live
- Started January 2024 until end 2027

From the Community to synthesise, build and disseminate



Community building

What we do

We engage and create a community of EU-funded data space initiatives and other EU stakeholders...

... but not only: we look outside and learn from other initiatives, like in the private sector.

Community build



- "Relationship management" and facilitation of a **Community of Practice** for the EU-funded data spaces
- Beyond the data spaces, the facilitation of a wider **Network of Stakeholders** in dedicated Thematic Groups (technical, business, legal...)
- Anybody can participate in Simpl by reviewing and commenting on its **requirements**, help define its **priorities** and, of course, reporting **bugs** for the team to address

What we offer

The learning we acquired from the community, existing practices and standards are researched, structured and distilled into meaningful inputs for the following stages.

Volunteer experts from the public and our own staff join in working groups to combine our learning and co-create our guidance.

Expert technology contractors and the open-source community (soon) select, customise and maintain a suitable complete selection of software components

We enable European data spaces to move from learning to

We disseminate our assets so that the EU-funded data spaces – and



Distil

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Community build

Distil

Synthesise

Build

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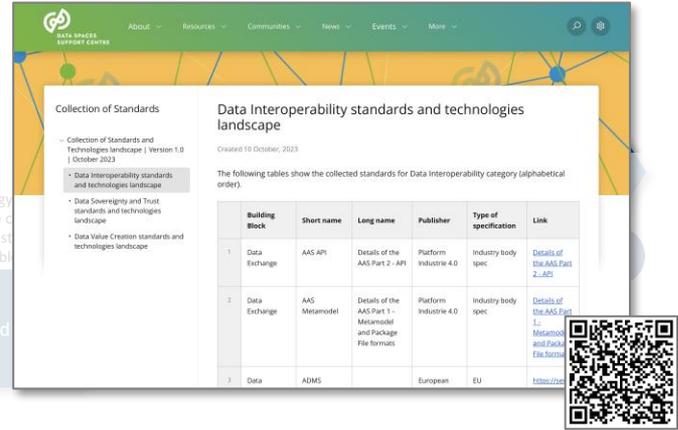
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- "Relationship management" and facilitation of a Community of Practice for the EU-funded data spaces
- Beyond the data spaces, the facilitation of a wider Network of Stakeholders in dedicated Thematic Groups (technical, business, legal...)

- **Review of pre-existing specifications and standards**
- **Review of pre-existing open-source software** for data sharing and related functionalities

- The Starter Kit
- The Design Principles
- The Glossary and Conceptual Model
- The Blueprint as a specification of functional building blocks that cover the full spectrum of a generic data space's needs
- The Co-Creation Method to assist designers in choosing the building blocks suitable to your data space

- **Simpl-Open:** software standards for data spaces at the edge
- **Simpl-Live:** test environment for data space instances
- **Simpl-Labs:** test environment to test interoperability



Simpl-Open Technology

Current Technology Choices for Simpl-Open Components

Component	Technology
SD Creator	XFSC SD Tooling
Data Space Catalogue	XFSC Federated Catalogue
Signer Service	XFSC Signer
Wallet	XFSC OCM
Data Space Connector	EDC Connector
Infrastructure Provisioning	Crossplane + ArgoCD
Tier 1 Authentication Provider	Keycloak
Certificate Authority	EJBCA
Authorisation	Spring Cloud Gateway
Monitoring	ELK

ns: the website,
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yts...
f Standard
Organisations

What we offer

space is with EU legislation and guidance

Synthesise

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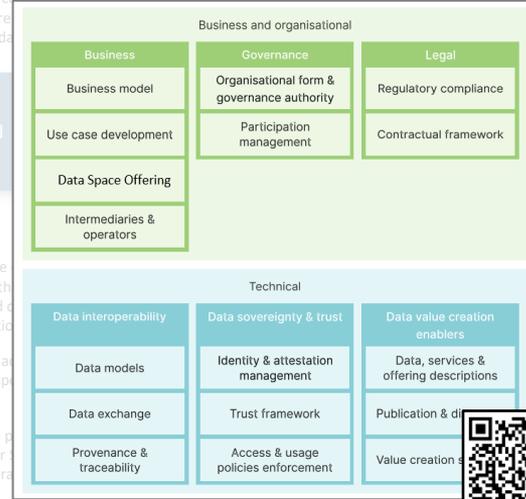
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Expert technology contractors and the open-source community (soon) select, customise and maintain a suitable complete selection of software to implement core data functionality.



- Simpl-Open: the software stack the data spaces and edge federations
- Simpl-Live: the environment for the data space instances
- Simpl-Labs: the environment for the data space instances to test interoperability

The Blueprint

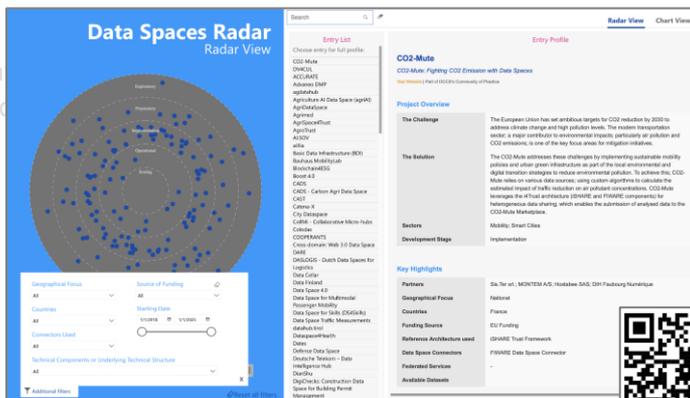


- Support, Roleplays and Pilots **[NEW]**
- The upcoming CEN/CENELEC Maturity Model to measure how compliant your data space is with EU legislation and guidance



What we offer

Support



Expert technology contractors and the open-source community (soon) select, customise and maintain a suitable complete selection of software components to implement core data space functionality.



We enable European data spaces to move from learning to designing, building and operating, and support them in the process.

We disseminate our assets so that the EU-funded data spaces – and everyone, really! – is informed of their availability and evolution.

- The **Radar**: a crowdsourced catalogue of known data spaces in operations and their characteristics, in the EU and beyond
- The **Toolbox**: a crowd-sourced catalogue of components that are aligned with the Blueprint, software but also business and legal
- **Support, Roleplays and Pilots [NEW]**
- The upcoming **CEN/CENELEC Maturity Model** to measure how compliant your data space is with EU legislation and guidance

- **Communications**: the website, social media...
- **Engagement of the public**: webinars, the live events, participation to other relevant initiatives' events...
- **Engagement of Standard Development Organisations**

EU-funded data spaces

- Beyond the data spaces, the facilitation of a wider Network of Stakeholders in dedicated Thematic Groups (technical, business, legal...)

- Review of pre-existing open-source software for data sharing and related functionalities

- The Co-Creation Method
- The Blueprint as a specification of functional building blocks that cover the full spectrum of a generic data space's needs
- The Co-Creation Method to assist designers in choosing the building blocks suitable to your data space

- **Simpl-Open**: the open-source software stack that powers data spaces and other cloud-to-edge federation initiatives
- **Simpl-Live**: the adoption of Simpl-Open in specific data space instances
- **Simpl-Labs**: the playground environment for Simpl-Open to test interoperability

Disseminate

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Distil

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Synthesise

- The Starter Kit
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Build

- Simpl-Open: the open-source

We enable European data spaces to move from learning to designing, building and operating, and support them in the process.

Support

- The Radar: a crowdsourced

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Disseminate

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What's next for the two initiatives



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Simpl's next steps

- New contracts to be launched:
 - 1 Simpl-Open AI & HPC enablement
 - 2 Simpl-Labs implementation
 - 3 Simpl-Live implementation
- Webinar on installation of Simp-Open (1st July);
- Updates of documentations by mid July (e.g. Architecture) ;
- It's Simpl social media series;
- Launch of Simpl newsletter by mid July;
- Annual event 2026, Brussels



Simpl @EC,Simpl · May 26
Kicking off our new series It's Simpl with a Q&A to clarify questions from the community on Simpl-Open and spark community dialogue.
Got more questions? Share them on the portal—we're listening!
Download here: europa.eu/8VcTKP
#EC_Simpl #Interoperability



DSSC's next steps



The “pilots”

- Getting our hands “dirty” in the last year of the project, redirecting resources away from theory towards practice, offering direct collaboration with selected EC-funded data space initiatives that have immediate, practical challenges to address by the end of 2025

The last iterations of our major deliverables

- Deliverables such as the Blueprint are being updated for early 2026

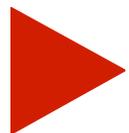
The closing event

- Date not yet set, likely in February 2026 in Madrid, Spain

“DSSC 2”



"Many hands make light (and dirt) work!" by cpsusa (s) licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.



Q&A



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