



Summary of the White Paper of the European Data Strategy

Author : Camille Pène

Reference document: [COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, A European Data Strategy, published on 19 February 2020, 34 pages](#)

To read also to understand: [The genesis of this white paper with all the upstream work, in particular of the Group of Experts to the European Commission.](#)

I/ SUMMARY (OF THE SYNTHESIS) OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S WHITE PAPER ON ITS DATA STRATEGY

A) Introduction

Main objectives / 5-year strategy :

- Making Europe the model of a "data-driven" society, i.e. where data feeds innovation that creates concrete benefits for citizens (personalised medicine, improved mobility)
- Create a single data market to allow the free flow of data between EU countries and between sectors for the benefit of businesses, researchers and public administrations.
- Improving business decision-making and public policy by basing them on (non-personal) data

Expected figures for 2023

- 530% increase in global data volume From 33 zettabytes in 2018 to 175 zettabytes
- Value of 829 bn euro of data economy in the EU27 From 301 bn euro (2.4% of EU GDP) in 2018
- 10.9 million data professionals in the EU27 From 5.7 million in 2018
- 65% Percentage of EU population with basic e-skills From 57% in 2018

B) The Issues

An increasing volume of data is to be expected, especially with the implementation of the very high-speed/5G plans.

Data will become increasingly important for the economy and society.

Business opportunities for European tech vs. Big Tech US and China

What has already been put in place by the EU since 2014

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Regulation on the free flow of non-personal data (FFD)



- Cybersecurity Act (CSA)
- Open Data Directive .
- Digital diplomacy

C) Vision

Based on :

- European values and fundamental rights
- The human at the centre
- The challenge of improving decision-making for businesses and administrations

The objective of the European Commission :

"The objective is to create a Single European Data Space, a true single data market, open to data from all over the world, where personal and non-personal data, including sensitive industrial data, are secure and where businesses have easy access to an almost infinite amount of high quality industrial data, stimulating growth and creating value while minimising the human carbon and environmental footprint. It should be an area where EU law can be effectively implemented and where all data-based products and services comply with the relevant EU single market standards".

The levers to establish the single European data market :

a) Ad hoc regulation

- Circulation of data for the benefit of all
- European rules fully respected
- A clear set of rules to govern access to and use of data

b) An industrial strategy

- Investing in future standards, advanced technologies and future infrastructure to store data
- Coordinating efforts for a European Cloud
- Promote the creation of interoperable datasets on key topics ("data spaces"): manufacturing, agriculture, health, and mobility.

c) General education about data and its uses

- Giving users full rights to protect their data and control its use
- Growing skills ("data literacy")

D) Problems

Fragmentation of Member States adopting a framework favourable to the adoption of the single market for data at different speeds.

Need for a coordinated approach on the following topics for true effectiveness :



- Availability of data, especially for the public good (climate issues, security, etc.) but also for companies.
- Imbalance of power in the market: "data advantage" of the large platforms that impose their data usage regulations on the SMEs.
- Interoperability and data quality
- Data governance - establishing clear rules for the governance of new data sets (data spaces)
- Data infrastructures and technologies - reducing European dependency on non-European cloud services and all data storage and handling infrastructures
- Empowering individuals to exercise their rights
- Skills and data literacy
- Cybersecurity

E) Strategy

The proposed actions are structured around 4 pillars

a). A cross-sectoral governance framework for data access and use

Key actions :

- Propose a legislative framework for the governance of common European data sets P, Q4 2020
- Adopt an implementation act on high-value datasets (e.g. public data) Q1 2021
- Propose a Data Act, 2021
- Analysing the importance of data in the digital economy (through the Observatory of the Online Platform Economy) and reviewing the existing policy framework in the context of the Digital Services Act package (Q4 2020)

(b) Catalysts: Investment in data and strengthening of European capacities and infrastructures for hosting, processing and using data, interoperability

Key actions :

- Invest in a high impact project on European Data Spaces, encompassing data sharing architectures (including data sharing standards, best practices, tools) and governance mechanisms, as well as the European federation of energy efficient and reliable cloud infrastructure and related services, with a view to facilitating combined investments of EUR 4-6 billion, of which the Commission could aim to invest EUR 2 billion. First phase of implementation planned for 2022.
- Sign Memoranda of Understanding with Member States on cloud federation (Q3 2020).



- Launch a European market for cloud services, integrating the entire service offering of cloud services (Q4 2022).
- Create an EU regulatory compendium for cloud computing (self-)regulation (Q2 2022).

c). Skills: Empowering people, investing in skills and SMEs¹

Key Action

- Explore the possibility of strengthening the right to portability for natural persons under Article 20 of the GDPR, allowing them to better control who can access and use machine-generated data (possibly under the Data Act in 2021).

d). European Common Data Spaces in strategic sectors and areas of public interest

9 European Common Data Spaces will be created:

- industry data (manufacturing)
- green deal data
- mobility data
- health data
- financial figures
- energy data
- agricultural data
- data for public administration
- competency data

(an annex gives an overview of sectoral policies and legislation underpinning the creation of these spaces in the different sectors and areas, and proposes sectoral measures)

G) An open but proactive international approach

Key Action :

- Create a framework for measuring data flows and estimating their economic value within Europe and between Europe and the rest of the world (Q4 2021).

(II) CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

[In French](#)

[In English](#)

Introduction

¹ In European law, the term EMS also includes non-profit organisations. This is a point to be clarified.
SOCIAL GOOD ACCELERATOR, general interest association
Association Loi 1901 ; Identification R.N.A. : W751243449 ; Publication in JO 17/03/2018 ; SIRET n°839 085 230 00010
38 rue Marc Séguin 75018 Paris - France
www.socialgoodaccelerator.eu



Europe is undergoing a digital transition that is changing our societies and economies at an unprecedented speed. Data is at the heart of this transformation. It has an impact on all economic sectors, but also on the daily lives of citizens.

The objective of the European Data Strategy is to create a Single European Data Space: a true single market for data, where personal and non-personal data, including confidential data, are secure. This will give businesses and public authorities easier access to an almost infinite amount of quality data to stimulate growth and create value, while reducing the carbon footprint of the EU economy.

To achieve this ambition, the EU can build its single data market on a solid legal framework in terms of data protection, freedom of services and establishment, fundamental rights, security and cyber-security, and this market will be further stimulated by a high degree of interconnection of digital public services. In addition, the EU has a strong industrial base and a recognised technological capacity to develop complex, secure and reliable products and services, from aeronautics to energy, automotive, medical equipment and digital.

The Commission proposes a European Data Strategy that benefits society and the whole European digital economy. It puts the citizen at the centre of the data-driven economy while ensuring that European businesses and public authorities can capitalise on the data they generate and also have better access to data produced by others.

You can view the European Data Strategy here. You are invited to read this document before filling in the questionnaire.

This public consultation will help define the future policy agenda on the EU data economy. It will feed into possible Commission initiatives on data access and re-use.

It is structured in two sections.

- The objective of Section 1 is to collect views on the European Data Strategy.
- Section 2 is divided into two subsections. Its purpose is to collect information on three specific aspects of the strategy:
 - How a governance structure and mechanisms can maximize the social and economic benefits of data*
 - The list of high-value datasets that the Commission will develop following the Open Data Directive*
 - The role of self-regulation in the implementation of data processing rules*

Possibility to send a document that further explains our opinions with the answers to the questionnaire.

A) Section 1 (mostly yes/no questions or strongly agree/disagree)



Do you agree that the European Union needs a comprehensive data strategy to enable the digital transformation of society?

*"More data should be available for the common good, for example to improve mobility, provide personalised medicine, reduce energy consumption and make our society greener".
To what extent do you agree with this statement?*

Do you think it should be easier for individuals to give access to existing data about themselves, for example those held by providers of online platforms, car manufacturers, producers of clothing, voice assistants or intelligent household appliances, to new service providers of their choice, in line with the GDPR?

The general data literacy of the EU population is currently insufficient for everyone to benefit from data-driven innovation and to become a more active player in the data economy. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

The EU should make significant investments in technologies and infrastructure that improve access to and use of data, while giving individuals and public and private organisations full control over the data they generate. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

The development of European Common Data Spaces should be supported by the EU in strategic industrial sectors and areas of public interest (industry/manufacturing, Green Deal, mobility, health, finance, energy, agriculture, public administration, skills). To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Do you have any general comments on the data strategy?

Section 2 (agree/disagree questions about specific governance and regulatory mechanisms)

Section 2.1 Data Governance Mechanisms

Data governance mechanisms are needed to capture the enormous potential of data, especially for cross-sectoral use of data. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

> Secondary use of data

Public authorities should do more to make available a wider range of sensitive data for R&I purposes in the public interest, in full respect of data protection rights. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

> Data Altruism



Do you think that law and technology should allow citizens to make their data available in the public interest, without any direct reward?

Do you think there are sufficient tools and mechanisms to "give" your data?

> Data Intermediaries

These intermediaries are useful facilitators of the data economy". To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 2.2 identification of high value datasets

The establishment of a list of high value datasets, to be made available free of charge, without restrictions and through IPAs, is a good way to ensure that public sector data have a positive impact on the EU economy and society.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Questions to identify high-value data, rules for using it, technical requirements

Note SOGA EU: This part is absolutely essential for SSE, which needs many more public datasets that are open or with access reserved to public interest actors. A regulation to be passed?



Section 1: General questions on the data strategy

Over the last few years, digital technologies have transformed our economy and society, affecting all sectors of activity and the daily lives of all Europeans. Data is at the centre of this transformation, and more is to come as the volume of data produced in the world is growing rapidly.

Do you agree that the European Union needs an overarching data strategy to enable the digital transformation of the society?

- Yes
- No

"More data should be available for the common good, for example for improving mobility, delivering personalised medicine, reducing energy consumption and making our society greener." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / no opinion

Do you think that it should be made easier for individuals to give access to existing data held about them, e.g. by online platform providers, car manufacturers, producers of wearables, voice assistants or smart home appliances, to new services providers of their choosing, in line with the GDPR?

- Yes
- No

'General data literacy across the EU population is currently insufficient for everyone to benefit from data-driven innovation and to become more active agents in the data economy.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / no opinion

'The EU should make major investments in technologies and infrastructures that enhance data access and use, while giving individuals as well as public and private organisations full control over the data they generate.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / no opinion



'The development of common European data spaces should be supported by the EU in strategic industry sectors and domains of public interest (industry/manufacturing, Green Deal, mobility, health, finance, energy, agriculture, public administration, skills).' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / no opinion

Are there general comments you would like to make about the data strategy?

300 character(s) maximum

Section 2.1 - Specific questions on future actions: Data governance

The use of data in the society and the economy raises a series of questions of legal, ethical, organisational and technical nature. Many angles need to be looked at in order to fully reap the benefits of the use of data without harm.

With the term 'data governance' we seek to refer to the set of legal, organisational and technical rules, tools and processes that determine the use of data by the public sector, business, individuals, civil society organisations, researchers.

This may translate into establishing mechanisms for data governance at European level which may support data-driven innovation in different ways:

- At cross-sector level, it could identify the need for standards to facilitate data-sharing, including for the various actions to be taken in this regard (identification, authentication, access control). It could identify use cases in which cross-sector data re-use is supported by standardisation. It could provide technical guidance on technologies for lawful processing of data in accordance with data protection legislation, the need to protect of commercially sensitive information as well as competition law.
- At sector-specific level, data governance could be developed, building on existing structures and coordination mechanisms.

'Data governance mechanisms are needed to capture the enormous potential of data in particular for cross-sector data use.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / no opinion



Secondary use of data

Sensitive data (e.g. health data) stored in public databases has a high potential for re-use for the public interest. However, it is normally not possible to open such data as 'open data' and specific efforts are necessary on the side of the public sector data holder. Some statistical offices have put structures in place for processing of statistical micro-data for research. In some countries, similar approaches are taken for certain social services or health information. With these questions we seek to understand whether such approaches should be broadened to other types of data and what types of services should be offered.

'Public authorities should do more to make available a broader range of sensitive data for R&I purposes for the public interest, in full respect of data protection rights.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / no opinion

Data altruism

Data altruism is about making it easier for individuals to allow the use of the data they generate for the public good, if they wish to do so, in full compliance with the GDPR and namely on the basis of consent as a legal basis. This is sometimes referred to as 'data donation', a term that could be misunderstood to mean that the consent to the processing of such data in question cannot be withdrawn. Article 7 of the GDPR provides that consent can always be withdrawn and there is no intention to change this rule for 'data altruism'.

Do you think that law and technology should enable citizens to make available their data for the public interest, without any direct reward?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know / no opinion

Do you think there are sufficient tools and mechanisms to "donate" your data?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know / no opinion

Data intermediaries

In the data economy, novel intermediaries such as 'data marketplaces' or 'data brokers' are increasingly aiming to support business-to-business data sharing with a range of services such as match-making, offering dedicated sharing platforms, including technology on controlled access and use, as well as legal support.

'Such intermediaries are useful enablers of the data economy.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree



Section 2.2 - Specific questions on future actions: identification of high-value datasets

The recently adopted [Directive 2019/1024/EU](#) (Open Data Directive) introduces the concept of high-value datasets (HVDs), defined as documents the re-use of which is associated with important benefits for society and the economy (e.g. job creation, new digital services, more efficient and evidence-based policy making). Under the directive, the Commission is required to adopt an implementing act setting out a list of specific high value datasets within the thematic categories listed in Annex I to the directive (geospatial; earth observation and environment; meteorological; statistics; companies and company ownership; mobility). The directive specifies that those datasets shall be made available for re-use free of charge, in machine-readable formats, provided via application programming interfaces (APIs) and, where relevant, as bulk download.

The answers to the questions below will help the Commission draw up an EU-wide list of specific high-value datasets.

'The establishment of a list of high-value datasets, to be made available free of charge, without restrictions and via APIs, is a good way to ensure that public sector data has a positive impact on the EU's economy and society.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neutral
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / no opinion

Apart from the potential to generate socio-economic benefits, please indicate the relevance of the following additional factors to be taken into account when selecting datasets for the future list of high value datasets:

	Very relevant	Relevant	Neutral	Not relevant	Not relevant at all	I don't know / no opinion
The re-use of the dataset would increase if it was provided free of charge.	<input type="radio"/>					
The dataset belongs to a thematic area in which there are few EU-level requirements for opening up data.	<input type="radio"/>					
The re-use of the dataset would increase if its availability under uniform conditions was ensured across the entire EU.	<input type="radio"/>					
The re-use of the dataset would increase if it was available via an application programming interface (API).	<input type="radio"/>					

If other factors: please specify
 200 character(s) maximum

Under the Open Data Directive, specific high-value datasets will have to be available free of charge, in a machine-readable format, provided via APIs and, where relevant, provided as a bulk download. Please indicate the relevance of each of the other arrangements indicated below to improve the re-usability of specific high-value datasets.



	Very relevant	Relevant	Neutral	Not relevant	Not relevant at all	I don't know / no opinion
Licensing and other terms applicable to re-use	●	●	●	●	●	●
Standardised formats of data and metadata	●	●	●	●	●	●
Possibility of user feedback	●	●	●	●	●	●
Specific technical arrangements for dissemination	●	●	●	●	●	●

If other arrangements, please specify:

200 character(s) maximum

EU programmes may provide funding to enhance the availability and re-use of high-value datasets across Europe. For each of the following activities, please indicate how relevant it is to support them.

	Very relevant	Relevant	Neutral	Not relevant	Not relevant at all	I don't know / no opinion
Improving the quality (e.g. machine-readability) and interoperability of the data/metadata	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ensuring sustainable data provision via application programming interfaces (APIs)	●	●	●	●	●	●
Engaging with re-users (promoting the data, co-defining use-cases)	●	●	●	●	●	●

If other activities, please specify:

200 character(s) maximum

According to your experience and the expected potential of concrete datasets, indicate up to three specific datasets that should be listed in each of the thematic categories of high-value datasets, as referred to in Article 13(1) of the Open Data Directive:

	Specific datasets
Geospatial	//
Earth observation and environment	//
Meteorological	//
Statistics	//
Companies and company ownership	//
Mobility	//