

# IGLO WG Digital: Data Union Strategy, Data Spaces, Digital Omnibus

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Place of the event:	NorCore, Rue du Trone 98
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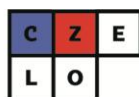
## Data Union Strategy

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- Three immediate problems to be tackled:
  - Data scarcity is a bottleneck for AI training -> need more data for AI
  - Regulatory complexity hampers scale -> need simplification
  - Global competition: data as a strategic asset -> operationalising “open but assertive” approach
- Pillar 1 – Flagship actions and timeline
  - Data Labs (Q4 2025 onwards)
  - Cloud and AI development act (Q2-3 2026)
  - Continues support to common European data spaces: + 100mil eur (2026 onwards)
  - Enhance accessibility to high-value data sets in science, culture and languages (2026 onwards)
- Pillar 2 – The Digital Simplification Omnibus
  - Consolidate the data acquis – from 4 to 1 data instrument
  - Support Data Act implementation – published (model contractual terms, standard contractual clauses, guidance on vehicle data, FAQ), upcoming in 2025-26
- Pillar 3 – An open but assertive approach
  - EU data sovereignty
    - Fair cross-border data flows and safeguards for sensitive non-personal data
    - Linking EU data-sharing ecosystems with those of like-minded third countries
    - Boosting the EU’s voice in global data governance

## Data Spaces

- Common European Data Spaces
  - A secure and trustworthy environment where data is shared in a peer-to-peer manner:
    - A technical infrastructure that allows the transfer of or access to data
    - A governance framework defining data sharing and usage policies
  - Data holders seek to leverage their data by either monetising it or trading it for extra services. They maintain control over who can access and use their data, as well as the purposes and conditions under which it can be used.
- Data sharing
  - Going for more openness but many steps during the way
- EU investment on Common European Data Spaces
  - Phase 1 – digital coordination and support actions – finished (late 2022-april 2024)
  - Phase 2 – digital deployment actions – ongoing
  - European Digital Infrastructure Consortia – EDICs
  - Data Space Support Centre X European Trusted Data Framework
    - Data Spaces Blueprint
    - Practical Support
    - Network of Stakeholders
    - Events and Communication
    - X
    - Trusted data transactions standard
    - Maturity Model for Common European data spaces (scorecard)





- Cybersecurity – incident reporting
- Repeal of the Platform-to-Business regulation
- Overview of consolidation
  - [Data Act](#)
  - [Data Governance Act](#)
  - [Free Flow of Non-Personal Data Regulation](#) → >60 % support consolidation (stakeholder feedback)
  - Open Data Directive
- Amendment to Data Act
  - Trade Secret Protection
    - Refusal of data sharing if high risk of leakage to third countries with weaker trade secrets protection
  - B2G Data Sharing
    - Obligation to share data limited strictly to emergency situations only
  - Reduced Cloud Burdens
    - Exemptions for specific legacy cloud contracts (SMEs-custom-made) and clarified early termination penalties
- Rules on data intermediation services
  - Challenges
    - Current legal framework (Data Governance Act) overly prescriptive
  - Solution
    - Sharper definitions
    - Conditions for obtaining the label more flexible
    - Regime becomes voluntary (label)
  - Benefits
    - Greater uptake leading to more voluntary data sharing or pooling
- Free flow of Non-Personal Data Regulation
  - Challenges
    - Voluntary actions on cloud switching have been superseded by Data Act
    - Complete supervisory model for data localisation requirements
    - Further provisions that have not been relevant in practice
  - Solution
    - Repeal of the Free Flow of Non-Personal Data Regulation and integrate only the Regulation's central Article (prohibition of unjustified data localisation requirements in EU) into the Data Act
  - Benefits
    - Leaner legal landscape (one instrument out)
- A single, streamlined instrument for re-use of public sector data
  - Challenges
    - Two instruments (DGA/ODD):
      - Different definitions
      - Uncertainty which regime applies when (e.g. in case of anonymization)
    - Market balances: Small entities find it harder to re-use data
  - Solution
    - Merge the rules into Data Act – streamline where possible, keep separate where necessary
    - Clarify definitions and scopes
    - New rules allow public sector bodies to set out different rules for very large enterprises
  - Benefits
    - Consolidated rules and clear scope for easy re-use
    - Harmonized framework for re-use – without touching on national access regimes
    - Fighting reinforcement of dominant market positions, ensuring fairness

- Open and protective data regimes will be put together
- ePrivacy Directive: Updating the “Cookie rules”
  - Reduce cookie consent fatigue – put users back in control over their choices
  - Simplify users’ online experience – maintain the highest level of protection
  - Reduce number of cookie pop-up banners and costs for businesses
  - Single legal framework under the GDPR
- Looking ahead: Digital Fitness Check
  - Testing the cumulative impact of the EU’s digital rules
  - Objective
    - Analysis of the digital rulebook and signal simplification potential
    - Emphasis on coherence and cumulative effects
  - Join the conversation
    - Kick-off: mapping impacts and scoping the analysis
    - Participate in the public consultation by 11 March and [have your say](#)
  - Timeline
    - Close analysis of selected areas in 2026
    - Planned adoption of the report in Q1 2027

#### Topics in discussion:

- The European Data Market Study was referenced as a source highlighting persistent fragmentation of the EU data market and uneven levels of readiness across sectors and Member States
- The Digital Services Act, noting its relevance for data governance and platform responsibility, and the need for coherence with broader EU data and digital policies
- Experience with open data, including the integration of research data into open data policies around seven years ago, shows that implementation remains challenging despite a well-established policy framework
- Publishing data is not only a technical task but also a time-consuming process of documentation and metadata description, which represents a major burden for researchers and institutions
- The role of national data repositories was highlighted as crucial for supporting data standardisation, long-term preservation and reuse
  - The Austrian Social Science Data Archive was mentioned as an example of good practice
- Open research data are usually shared only when required by funding rules or project obligations
- A study on institutional readiness was mentioned, underlining that participation in data spaces requires not only technical infrastructure but also organisational capacity, skills and clear governance structures
- The discussion concluded that open data tend to create stronger incentives for the private sector, while in the public sector they primarily support transparency, efficiency and improved public services

