European data governance act

A European Data Governance Act, which is fully in line with EU values and principles, will bring significant benefits to EU citizens and companies.

The proposed Regulation on data governance (the Data Governance Act), adopted by the Commission on 25 November 2020, will boost data sharing across sectors and Member States.

A key pillar of the European strategy for data, the Data Governance Act will increase trust in data sharing, strengthen mechanisms to increase data availability and overcome technical obstacles to the reuse of data.

The proposed Data Governance Act will also support the set-up and development of common European data spaces in strategic domains, involving both private and public players, in sectors such as health, environment, energy, agriculture, mobility, finance, manufacturing, public administration and skills.

Benefits

The initiative aims to make more data available and facilitate data sharing across sectors and EU countries in order to leverage the potential of data for the benefit of European citizens and businesses.

For example:

- Good data management and data sharing will enable industries to develop innovative products and services, and will make many sectors of the economy more efficient and sustainable. It is
also essential for training AI systems.

- With more data available, the public sector can develop better policies, leading to more transparent governance and more efficient public services.
- Data-driven innovation will bring benefits for companies and individuals by making our lives and work more efficient through:
  - **health data:** improving personalised treatments, providing better healthcare, and helping cure rare or chronic diseases, saving approximately €120 billion a year in the EU health sector and providing a more effective and quicker response to the global COVID-19 health crisis;
  - **mobility data:** saving more than 27 million hours of public transport users’ time and up to €20 billion a year in labour costs of car drivers thanks to real-time navigation;
  - **environmental data:** combatting climate change, reducing CO₂ emissions and fighting emergencies, such as floods and wildfires;
  - **agricultural data:** developing precision farming, new products in the agri-food sector and new services in general in rural areas;
  - **public administration data:** delivering better and more reliable official statistics, and contributing to evidence-based decisions.

## How will this work in practice?

The EU will boost the development of trustworthy data-sharing systems through 4 broad sets of measures:

1. Mechanisms to facilitate the reuse of certain public sector data that cannot be made available as open data. For example, the reuse of health data could advance research to find cures for rare or chronic diseases.
2. Measures to ensure that data intermediaries will function as trustworthy organisers of data sharing or pooling within the common European data spaces.
3. Measures to make it easier for citizens and businesses to make their data available for the benefit of society.
4. Measures to facilitate data sharing, in particular to make it possible for data to be used across sectors and borders, and to enable the right data to be found for the right purpose.

## Impact across the EU

The Regulation on data governance will be a powerful engine for innovation and new jobs. It will allow the EU to ensure that it is at the forefront of the second wave of innovation based on data.

Society as a whole will benefit from more evidence-based policies and better solutions to societal challenges, such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Businesses will benefit from a reduction in costs for acquiring, integrating and processing data, and from lower barriers to enter markets. They will also see a reduction in time-to-market for novel products and services. This will enable small and large firms alike to develop new data-driven products and services.

## Next steps

The European Parliament and EU Member States have reached a political agreement on the Commission’s proposed Regulation on European data governance. The Regulation will now be validated in a plenary vote of the European Parliament, and in the Council.
The Commission proposed on 23 February 2022 a Data Act to encourage data sharing among businesses and between businesses and governance.

The Commission will continue to develop and fund European data spaces to pool data in key strategic sectors and areas of public interest, such as health, agriculture and manufacturing. On 23 February 2022, the Commission published an overview of the state of play of the common European data spaces that are being developed in various fields.

Proposal for a Regulation on European data governance (Data Governance Act)

Press Release: Measures to boost data sharing and support European data spaces
Regulation on data governance: Q&A
Impact Assessment report and study on the Regulation on data governance
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Latest

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EU cohesion policy: More than 1.5 million EU-funded projects accessible in new public platform

The Commission launched this week ‘Kohesio’, a public online platform gathering all the information on over 1.5 million projects in all 27 Member States financed by the European Regional
Development Fund (ERDF), the Cohesion Fund and the European Social Fund (ESF) since 2014.

PRESS RELEASE | 23 February 2022
Data Act: Commission proposes measures for a fair and innovative data economy

The Commission has proposed new rules on who can use and access data generated in the EU across all economic sectors.

PRESS RELEASE | 22 February 2022
Commission to invest €292 million in digital technologies and cybersecurity

The Commission has opened the second set of calls for proposals of the Digital Europe Programme, which follows the adoption of the work programmes and a first set of calls in November 2021.

PRESS RELEASE | 03 February 2022
Commission presents new study monitoring data flows in Europe

The Commission has published a study mapping and estimating the volume of data flowing to main cloud infrastructures across the 27 Member States, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and the UK.

Browse Data
The strategy for data focuses on putting people first in developing technology, and defending and promoting European values and rights in the digital world.

See Also
Data Act
The Data Act is a key measure for making more data available for use in line with EU rules and values.

Free flow of non-personal data

The EU wants to ensure a free flow of data in Europe, allowing companies and public administrations to store and process non-personal data wherever they choose.

Big data

Data has become a key asset for the economy and our societies and the need to make sense of ‘big data’ is leading to innovations in technology.