



## CLUJ IT DATA INTELLIGENCE WORKGROUP

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### European Commission Consultation on Access to Data

Consultation period: 18 March – 30 April 2020

If you have questions or would like to add your remarks independent from this survey, please contact Ms. Annika Linck ([a.linck@digitalsme.eu](mailto:a.linck@digitalsme.eu))

We will gather your feedback on this European Commission survey, and submit a joint response on behalf of European DIGITAL SME Alliance. If we gather extensive feedback, we may develop a position paper on behalf of the organisation.

#### Background:

Europe is undergoing a digital transition that is changing our societies and economies at an unprecedented speed. Data is at the core of this transformation. It has an impact on all economic sectors and also on the daily lives of citizens. The aim of the European strategy for data is to create a single European data space: a genuine single market for data, where personal as well as non-personal data, including confidential data, are secure. This will make it easier for businesses and public authorities to access an almost infinite amount of high-quality data to boost growth and create value, while reducing the carbon footprint of the EU economy. To fulfil this ambition, the EU can build its single market for data on a strong legal framework in terms of data protection, freedom to provide services and of establishment, fundamental rights, safety and cybersecurity – and this will be further stimulated by a large degree of interconnection in digital public services. In addition, the EU has a strong industrial base and a recognised technological capacity to build safe and reliable complex products and services, from aeronautics to energy, automotive, medical equipment and digital. The Commission is putting forward a European data strategy that benefits society and the entire European digital economy. It puts the citizen at the centre of the data-driven economy while ensuring that European companies and public authorities can capitalise on the data they generate and also have better access to the data generated by others. You can consult [the European data strategy here](#). You are invited to read this document prior to completing the questionnaire. This public consultation will help shape the future policy agenda on the EU data economy. It will feed into possible Commission initiatives on access to and re-use of data.

It is structured in two sections:

#### **Part 1: Data Strategy of the European Commission for the European Union**

Summary: Need for a data strategy and basic topics like data portability rights of individuals, data literacy, access to data, relationship non-personal data/personal data, investment in data infrastructure and European data spaces

#### **Part 2: Specific questions on future actions: Data governance**

Summary of general topics: Data governance mechanisms, Standardisation, Secondary use of data, Data altruism, Data intermediaries



### Part 1: Data Strategy of the European Commission for the European Union

#### Need for a data strategy

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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

#### Need for more data for common good

**“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

#### Data sharing and data ownership rights of individuals

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

Which mechanism(s) do you think would help achieve this?

- ☒ A compelling offer to use the data that brings benefits to the individuals
- ☒ Practical solutions that allow individuals to exercise control, such as mobile and online dashboards or apps
- ☐ Additional rights in law
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I don't know / no opinion

#### Do you have any other comments?

Providing personal data to new services providers should be a voluntary and unimpeded d

(Please click on field to enter your text)

#### Data literacy

Have you faced difficulties **in recruiting data professionals (workers who collect, store, manage, analyse, interpret and visualise data as their primary or as a relevant part of their activity)** during the last 2 years?

- ☒ 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

### Access to data

One area of study are **difficulties experienced in accessing and use data from other companies**. With the following questions we seek to further examine the importance and the nature of data access issues in business-to-business situations.

Have you had difficulties in using data from other companies?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

What was the nature of such difficulties?

- ☒ Impossibility to find companies to supply data of relevant quality
- ☒ Denied data access
- ☐ Prohibitive prices or other conditions considered unfair or prohibitive
- ☒ Technical aspects relating to both data interoperability and transfer mechanisms
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I don't know /no opinion

If other, please specify

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

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### Personal data/machine data relationship

A specific class of data are **non-personal data generated by smart machines or devices connected to the Internet-of-Things in professional use**, such as smart tractors used in farms or smart robots in use in a factory. Data generated by such machines or devices are typically 'co-generated' by several parties, such as: manufacturer of a smart device, lawful user of the smart machine or device etc. 'It is currently challenging to **define solutions on the allocation of the rights to use data coming from smart machines or devices that are fair for all parties concerned**'. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

- ☒ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree

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

### Investment in data infrastructure

'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

### European data spaces

'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?

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

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**Part 2: Specific questions on future actions: Data governance****Data governance 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

**Standardisation**

Significant interoperability issues impede the combination of data from different sources within sectors, and even more so between sectors. One such issue is the absence of a consistent description of the data, including information on how it has been gathered. This can impact on data discoverability and on the capacity to evaluate data quality. Another issue is the differences between data models used for similar or identical information assets. This constitutes a barrier for re-users, both commercial and from academia.

Standardisation is one of the means to respond to these challenges. 'The re-use of data in the economy and society would benefit greatly **from standardisation to improve interoperability**.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

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

'Future standardisation activities need to better address the use **of data across sectors of the economy or domains of 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

Which of the **following elements do you consider to be the most useful in terms of standardisation?**

- ☒ Metadata schema
- ☒ Metadata variables (semantic interoperability at the metadata level), including ontologies, controlled vocabularies and agreed thesauri
- ☐ Data formats

- ☒ Common data models
- ☐ Data exchange protocols
- ☐ Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)
- ☒ Licences or licence terms
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I don't know / no opinion

If other, please specify

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

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What **role** should **EU or national government bodies** take in **standardisation**?

- ☒ Provide necessary funding in order to ensure open standards
- ☒ Take an active role in the prioritisation and coordination of standardisation needs, creation and updates
- ☒ Be directly involved in defining standards
- ☒ Provide funding to test draft standards in practice and develop tools to implement them early-on
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Governments should not have a role in standardisation
- ☐ I don't know / no opinion

If other, please specify

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

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### **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.

### **Re-use of data**

'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

Which of the following should public authorities do to facilitate data re-use:

- ☒ Help the re-user to identify the exact authority that is holder of a specific set of data (one-stop-shop)
- ☒ Ensure that the request for data access is processed faster, within agreed deadlines
- ☒ Assess whether the re-use of the data could potentially harm the interests of others (of the persons/companies whose data is being used) for concrete use-cases
- ☒ Be able to provide anonymisation of specific data for concrete use-cases
- ☐ Offer the possibility to process data within a secure environment it makes available, so that the user does not need to obtain a copy of the data
- ☒ Clarify from the outset the legal rules on the purposes for which the data can be used
- ☒ Provide for recourse mechanisms to challenge decisions on one or several of the above.
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I don't know / no opinion

If other, please specify

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

(Please click on field to enter your text)

### **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
- ☐ I don't know / no opinion

### **Do you have any other comments?**

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

(Please click on field to enter your text)



## QUESTIONNAIRE COMPLETION NOTE

This questionnaire was filled by:

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The following companies were consulted during the completion of this questionnaire:



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