

EUROPEAN DATA STRATEGY

Policy briefing

Weblink	https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-data-strategy_en
Relevance	☐ National policy ☐ EU policy ☒ other: EU strategy
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Short summary of the policy

The **European Strategy for Data** was designed as a **long-term vision and roadmap** to address existing and anticipated gaps in EU data policy. It aims to establish a single, unified data market to secure Europe's global competitiveness and data sovereignty, positioning the EU as a leader in the data economy while upholding core values like privacy, fairness, and transparency.

The 2020 Strategy identified **key challenges** (e.g., interoperability, legal uncertainty, data access imbalances) and **outlined the need for new rules** to unlock the potential of industrial and public sector data. It ties together GDPR (privacy), DGA (governance), and Data Act (access) into a cohesive plan for a data-powered EU economy, filling gaps in scope, implementation, and ambition of former policies.

Following the strategy, in 2022 the Data Governance Act was adopted to govern data sharing intermediaries, and in 2024 the Data Act was adopted to **operationalize** the Strategy's goals for industrial data access and fairness.

Main objectives of the policy

To further ensure the EU's leadership in the global data economy the Strategy intends to:

- adopt legislative measures on data governance, access, and reuse.
- make data more widely available by opening up high value publicly held datasets across the EU and allowing their reuse for free.
- invest in European High Impact Projects to develop data infrastructures, which include the development of Common European Data Spaces (e.g. for health, energy, mobility, manufacturing, agriculture, and public administration).
- promote sharing tools/services for trustworthy, energy-efficient data sharing & governance.
- make cloud services in the EU more accessible, secure and regulated by fair and consistent rules.

Context and relation to the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)

Major links between the Data Strategy and DEP are lying in:

- the creation of common European Data Spaces where DEP funds the deployment, interoperability and operationalization.
- targeting the need for a skilled workforce. DEP funds digital skills academies and training programmes to bridge the skills gap.
- promoting and supporting fair access to data for SMEs. DEP funds several activities (e.g. EDIHs) to help SMEs adopt data-driven technologies and improve digital maturity.
- encouraging AI and cloud adoption for data-driven innovation. Support from DEP goes to AI factories and testing facilities to enable practical implementation
- emphasizing secure and trustworthy data sharing. Under DEP, cybersecurity initiatives to protect data infrastructures are funded.

Parts of the policy directly related to specific objectives (SO) in DEP

SO1: High Performance Computing (HPC)

The strategy's focus on developing AI and quantum computing capacities aligns with funding under SO1 for AI-optimized supercomputers and quantum infrastructure.

SO2: AI Continent (AI)

The strategy's emphasis on sectoral data spaces (e.g. health, manufacturing, cultural heritage) directly supports SO2's goal of training AI models with high-quality data. It also pushes for AI-driven innovation and aligns with funding under SO2 for AI testing facilities, generative AI uptake, and virtual worlds testbeds.

SO3: Cybersecurity

As it concerns Secure Data Sharing and Infrastructure, the strategy's call for trustworthy data ecosystems aligns with the focus of SO3 on cybersecurity resilience, the EU Cybersecurity Reserve, and secure data spaces.

Considering Data Governance and Compliance, the Data Governance Act (DGA) and Data Act under the strategy support SO3's cybersecurity frameworks and trust mechanisms for data sharing.

SO4: Advanced Digital Skills

The strategy's need for a skilled workforce directly links to digital skills academies and training programs to bridge the skills gap. Upskilling for Data-Driven Economies is supported under SO4.

SO5: Deployment and Best Use of Digital Capacities and Interoperability

The European Data Strategy's goals of interoperable data spaces, digital public services, and reduced administrative burdens are directly operationalized through funding and actions under SO5. The SO focuses on deploying the infrastructure, standards, and tools needed to make the strategy's vision a reality, ensuring that data-driven innovation benefits businesses, citizens, and public administrations across Europe.

SO6: Semiconductors

By strengthening Europe's semiconductor ecosystem and reducing strategic technological dependencies, SO6 supports the objectives of the European Data Strategy of establishing secure and sovereign European cloud, edge, and data-processing infrastructures.

Activities in the DEP Work Programme 2025-27 contributing to the objectives of the policy

Call Topic	Link to the European Data Strategy	Call
Multi-Country Project in Agri-Food	Aligns by fostering a Common European Agricultural Data Space (CEADS), promoting data sharing, interoperability, and AI-driven innovation in agri-food.	First set of calls
Data Spaces Support Centre	Central as it coordinates the development, interoperability, and deployment of common European data spaces, ensuring alignment with the strategy's objectives.	First set of calls
Digital solutions for regulatory compliance through data	Advances the European Data Strategy by piloting automated compliance solutions for EU legislation, reducing administrative burdens and promoting interoperable, trustworthy data flows.	First set of calls, Third set of calls
Data Space for Manufacturing	Contributes by developing a sectoral data space for manufacturing, enabling secure, interoperable data sharing to train AI models & boost industrial competitiveness.	Second set of calls
Health: Data ingestion capacities and data services for the Euro-pean Genomic Data Infrastructure in the EHDS	Directly supports the European Data Strategy and European Health Data Space (EHDS) by enhancing genomic data infrastructure, ensuring interoperability, and enabling secure, cross-border data sharing for research and healthcare.	Second set of calls
Data Space for Tourism	Aligns by enabling a sectoral data space for tourism, promoting data-driven innovation, interoperability, and trustworthy data sharing across the EU.	Fourth set of calls
Data Space for Skills	Supports the European Data Strategy by addressing fragmentation in skills data, fostering a common Data Space for skills to improve transparency, interoperability, and AI-driven innovation in education and labor markets.	Fourth set of calls
Reference deployments of European Cloud-edge Services	Supports the European Data Strategy by deploying cross-border cloud-edge infrastructure, fostering interoperability, security, and scalability for data spaces and AI applications.	Fourth set of calls

Related policies and further information

- [European Digital Strategy](#): The European Data Strategy is part of the European Digital Strategy
- [Data Governance Act \(DGA\)](#): The Data Governance Act is a legislative pillar of the European Data Strategy
- [Data Act](#): The Data Act is a legislative pillar of the European Data Strategy
- [EU AI Act](#): The EU AI Act is also part of the comprehensive package under the European Digital Strategy