

EUROPEAN DATA ACT

Policy brief

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Relevance	<input type="checkbox"/> National policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EU policy <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
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Short summary of the policy

The [European Data Act](#) (Data Act) is a regulation aimed at fostering a more competitive and innovative data economy within the European Union. It focuses on making data, particularly data generated by connected products and related services, more accessible and usable, while also ensuring fair access and user rights. The act establishes rules on who can access and use data, promoting a more balanced distribution of the benefits derived from data.

The Data Act entered into force in January 2024 and becomes applicable in September 2025. It is a key piece of EU legislation designed to foster a fair and competitive digital environment by regulating access to and use of data, especially industrial and machine-generated data, and by facilitating data sharing and reuse across sectors.

The Data Act, alongside the Data Governance Act, forms the core of the EU's data strategy for creating a single market for data.

It aims to unlock the potential of data for innovation, economic growth, and public services while protecting trade secrets and intellectual property rights and will significantly contribute to the goals of the Digital Decade.

Main objectives of the policy

- **Promote Data Sharing and Reuse:** The Data Act aims to create a single market for data by facilitating data exchange and reuse across borders and sectors
- **Fair Access and User Rights:** It establishes rules to ensure users (both businesses and consumers) have the right to access, use, and share data generated by their connected products and related services
- **Boost Data Economy:** The act seeks to stimulate innovation, increase data availability, and make data more accessible to all users
- **Economic Growth:** The EU estimates that the Data Act will unlock significant economic value, with a potential increase in GDP of €270 billion by 2028, by making better use of industrial data

Context and relation to the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)

The Digital Europe Programme is one of the funding mechanisms that will help build the digital infrastructures necessary in order to promote the adoption of technologies that will enable the data economy envisioned by the Data Act.

Key connections between the two:

- **Enabling Data Spaces:** DEP supports the development of common European Data Spaces through funding initiatives like the Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI) and pilot projects. With these activities the programme promotes trusted data ecosystems, to make data fair, transparent, and technically secure.
- **Technological Infrastructure:** DEP invests in digital infrastructure, such as cloud and edge computing, and fosters interoperability between different edge solutions.
- **Interoperability and Standardisation:** DEP supports the development and adoption of common standards, open specification, and open-source tools.
- **Public Sector Readiness:** DEP supports public administrations for capacity building, technical infrastructure, and training.

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

Under Specific Objective 2 (AI Continent), WP 2025-2027 will continue to support six data spaces that will be strengthened and expanded. The work on the data spaces is accompanied by a review of the policy and legislative framework for data access and use, among others the Data Act.

Under Specific Objective 5 (Accelerating the Best Use of Technology), where interoperability is one out of four dedicated work strands, DEP provides funding for developing and maintaining EU public sector interoperability.

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

Calls related to Data Spaces (see 2.2.1 DEP Work Programme 2025-27) and to Interoperability for the public sector (see 5.1.2 DEP Work Programme 2025-27) assist in meeting the objective of promoting **data sharing and the reuse of data**:

- Data Space for Tourism
- Data Space for Skills
- Data Space for Manufacturing
- Health: Data ingestion capacities and data services for the European genomic data infrastructure in the European Health Data Space
- [Multi-Country project in Agri-Food](#)
- MCP on Innovative and Connected Public Administrations

Calls related to Support Data for AI Factories (see 2.2.2 DEP Work Programme 2025-27) as well as calls under SO5 contribute to meeting the objective of **fair access and user rights**:

- [Data Spaces Support Centre](#)
- Open Data Portal
- A European Data Altruism Consent Management Tool
- Digital solutions for regulatory compliance through date

- Building capacity to deploy the EEHRxF and digital health services and systems to support the rights of citizens and reuse of health data

Match of specific activities mentioned in the policy with call topics from the DEP Work Programme 2025-27

See above

Further information

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/data-act>

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/factpages/data-act-explained>