

Position paper : "Value of Gaia-X in the development of the European economy using generative AI solutions".

The development of AI has accelerated spectacularly in recent months, with its annual impact on the global economy estimated at between 2.6 and 4.4 trillion dollars (McKinsey study, June 2023). It now seems certain that AI will determine the prosperity and sustainability of entire sectors of the economy, industry and even society. That's why businesses and public authorities are showing an appetite for these new technologies and are experimenting with them to harness their full potential. They are rethinking the way they operate in the light of this technology to seize its opportunities.

AI needs data to function and progress, and it also needs massive computing and storage capacity, which the cloud makes possible thanks to pooled investment. AI tools continually feed off data to make predictions, automate processes, improve analyses or personalise experiences. Learning data is essential to the proper functioning of these Artificial Intelligences, and must represent a broad field of observation to cover what needs to be modelled. These data are not necessarily located in a single company, but can come from the entire process chain that they seek to represent. This is where we talk about the circulation of data between players in the sector.

75% of data comes from companies. This is an incredible manna to be exploited by AI, especially as it is often of better quality than that available on the web. However, it must be able to be shared and used in an environment of trust if it is to be exploited effectively. Trust in AI systems depends not only on trust in the cloud infrastructure hosting the models and learning data, but also on the origin of the data and respect for the consent given for its use. The description of the chain of consent must therefore comply with standards that ensure that consent has been given for the uses envisaged. This is why organisations developing or customising AI models need to think carefully and in a structured way about the data they use and the various cloud services available to them. Gaia-X is the answer to this very objective.

From the outset, the Gaia-X Association's ambition has been to enable organisations to make the most of their data. Through its technical and legal frameworks, it gives data producers, consumers and users control over the use of data and the underlying technology, with verifiable rules for accessing and using data. To this end, Gaia-X has set up an interface at the crossroads of data and infrastructure, proposing the definition of the technical and legal standards to which the services needed to create value around this data must conform. As a result, users have access to a decentralised, trusted ecosystem that meets these standards, and can choose between service offerings from suppliers that are described in a harmonised way, according to clearly defined, shared, verifiable and standardised criteria.



The members of Gaia-X have defined a *trust framework*, which brings together all the rules that define the minimum basis for being part of the Gaia-X ecosystem. These rules guarantee common governance and the basic levels of interoperability between participants in the Gaia-X ecosystem, while leaving users in full control of how their data is used.

They have also defined and specified three levels of labels guaranteeing data protection, transparency, security, portability and reversibility, as well as European control, and making it possible to list and compare all cloud provider solutions in service catalogues. These catalogues, such as the one proposed by the Aster-X project, make it possible to search for and select cloud services according to different criteria: the Gaia-X Label level (1, 2 or 3), the type of service, the location or the certifications attached, thus facilitating the use of solutions adapted to the needs of organisations or ecosystems.

Transparency, openness and interoperability are the prerequisites for the development of a trusted European AI, trained on ethical data and open models, and which does not lock its users in by concealing how it works.

The issues of competition and informed choice that led to the creation of Gaia-X and encouraged hundreds of organisations to take part in its work over the past 3 years are taking on new importance at a time when demand for computing and storage capacity is exploding and the risk of an AI market concentrated around a few dominant players is looming.

Europe must not miss the turning point in AI and must do everything in its power to offer innovation that respects its values, and Gaia-X is contributing to this thanks to the foundations it has laid, which give a hand to the producers and users of data.

Doesn't confidence in services using artificial intelligence tools come from confidence in the learning data and cloud services used? It is important for users of these services to have a complete and transparent view of the entire chain. This is what Gaia-X makes possible, with a standard recognised throughout Europe that is central to this chain of trust.