

## **Audience questions / comments raised during the webcast conference**

- Question to Jeroen Tas: Over the past 50 years many attempts have been made to "solve" the health delivery issues using data but most have failed. Some would argue that this is an organisational issue rather than "data" issue - what is distinctive about Gaia-X that will enable this? We can do specific issues (e.g. pandemic control as a "one off" but how does that scale over the diversity of health delivery?)
- Are you sure, that Europe has not - actually - lost the race vs. our competitors in the US and Southeast Asia, due to the complacency of European politicians, relying - completely - on the "free gifts from the billionaires in the Silicon Valley"?!?
- I am absolutely not familiar with GAIA-X, what is added value as compared to other similar, or previous initiatives ?
- I really like the philosophical approach of Gaia-X which goes together with EU values. Key question is how will the industrial implementation match AWS, Azure and Google Cloud. In mobile phones we used to have Symbian, driving Nokia phones, which had similar open value proposition, but Android and Apple executed so much better that nobody cared its openness.
- Do you think EU regulation will stimulate adoption of Gaia-X? Gaia-X will be "GDPR-native" and this could be its USP.
- I would like to - respectively - disagree with some of Jeroens statements ... unfortunately, Google, Facebook, Amazon have been consistently sued by European Authorities for repeatedly violating the "privacy rights" of European users! And, the CEOs of those companies have never been elected - you either accept their respective sets of rules - voluntarily ... or you are out!
- Can the speakers explore the notion of data hunger and the prevailing sort of data "eating disorders" of organisations, businesses and governments? Is this sustainable and ecologically responsible? Is the trade off between data collection, use and effect to be balanced by Gaia-X? Is better regulation combined with effective taxing to be considered? There are simply too many data gathered (double entry) to make sense of or to base a policy let alone actions on. Large parts of populations are digitally illiterate. Thank you, keen to hear reflections of the panel members.
- On health and Gaia-X - consent is a key issue and Personal Data Stores (e.g. Berners-Lee's SOLID) are seen as a way of distributing consent to the patient (and carers) does Gaia-X have features that will help with this kind of issue?
- Who is - actually - in the driver seat for GAIA-X? The automobile industry, tech companies like Telekom & SAP, other manufacturers, the healthcare sector?!
- What will be the relation between GAIA-X and the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)? How to ensure synergies and/or complementarities between both initiatives ?
- How do the GAIA-X initiative aim to work together with European Open Science Cloud?



- Local hospitals can keep their data, as long as they have a proper API to access software to access their data. We do not have to send the data around or have to put them in a large cloud. The data need to be as FAIR as possible.
- This is a wake-up call for Europe! In Germany, the public health sector, i.e. "Gesundheitsämter" are still relying on FAX machines ... believe it, or not! It is really sad!
- Regardless of who supplies the service, any service offered will be quite useless in a European context if Europeans do not have the skills to leverage the services on offer. Irrespective of whether EU suppliers will be able to catch up to US suppliers where it concerns quality and richness of the service portfolio. Will Gaia-X address this need for skilling our work force to truly leverage the benefits of infrastructure cloud services?
- EU has tried big innovative initiatives in the past, with strong funding. I can remember the brain project and the grapheno project. Both had not private competence in their scopes. Can anybody tell something about them? Why can Gaia X to get greater impact, when there are big cloud private actors around the world doing the business?
- Question to Maria da Graça Carvalho: Will cloud infrastructure be in focus of HPC, KDT or SNS?
- GAIA-X can certainly become an important initiative. Jeroen mentioned the relevance of clouds, but I think that we need to go beyond if we want to come to the interoperable data space which we are aiming of. Are the FAIR principles on your radar and if so, will you consider the FAIR Digital Objects as a way to come to this integrated and nevertheless protected data space? It will be about the virtualisation on top of clouds that will finally improve efficiency in data management and processing.
- Why is the focus so much on the most ephemeral part of the problem, namely the infrastructure layer, when the life cycle aspects of the data are of quite different order of magnitude? The cloud technology of the Big Tech is a byproduct of their fundamentally data centric approach. It is the data and data use cases that are driving their technology development. The proposed solutions have the real danger of putting the cart before the horse.
- What could be the role of universities in GAIA-X? Will they be somehow involved in its governance?
- I heard in the other webinars that EU wants to keep data within EU. How will big service cloud providers (US/CN) keep the data in EU? they are cloud service and the super computer might be placed in any part of the World.
- Shouldn't the GAIA-X project aim at defining GLOBAL standards and interfaces instead of "just" EUROPEAN?
- What will be the relation between GAIA-X and the European Data Spaces planned under the Digital Europe Programme (two focused on health)?
- I agree with Geert widely. My feeling is that in Europe industry is not understanding the essence of the "data game". Focusing on clouds does not tackle the core of the challenges. We know that data projects are wasting about 80% of time with data wrangling. Its not cloud that tackle this inefficiency. For sure EU needs to have experts that go deep in chip design, new technologies, using cloud technology etc. But as said, it does not tackle the core of the data challenges. I hope that GAIA-X will open its scope, especially if I listen to Jeroen and Jana who clearly point to these data issues.
- Is Gaia-X too small and too late? Is that why Atos teams up with Google Cloud: to gain scale and experience?



- By which date, do you assume that there will be alignment between all 27 EU member states, France and Germany in particular, and then - more importantly - all the different industry sectors?
- Is GAIA-X able to correlate with DestinE - the EU Green Deal cross discipline digital ecosystem project coordinated by JRC (Ispra)?
- Does the introduction of separate data spaces not add unnecessary complexity? Data flows in a continuum, not in separate spaces.
- How could we join/participate in GAIA-X as a company? as a sectorial NGO? as an hospital? as an academic ?
- Can you elaborate on the relation between GAIA-X and the actually running EU initiatives that provide the building blocks like EOSC, euroHPC, FIWARE, PRACE, the DEP...? Where will the funding for GAIA-X comes from?
- On Data Sharing: How much "data sharing" takes place in the cloud at the moment? Do you think Gaia-X will encourage more sharing (and why?)
- Should we not "mandate", via a EU directive, the sharing of data, where appropriate, by defining what data is indeed a \*public good\*, such as aggregate health data?
- Question to Jeroen Tas: The leadership of ASML is acknowledged, no doubt, but the US seems to have control over their export. Shouldn't we have some more balance in the discussion?
- For me the question is whether GAIA-X can provide a transparent and easy-to-use data market where individuals, companies and (local) governments can sell and buy data. Do you see any chance for that?
- When I look around in many research communities for example then I see that most institutes/departments use all kinds of data stores (file systems, data abses, etc.) and these are often living instances. If we speak about an integrated and interoperable data space, we need to have strategies to include all these repositories. Does GAIA-X has this challenge in its view, or is GAIA-X just another cloud initiative. Then questions from other colleagues are relevant: are we not much too late?

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