Gaia-X French Hub: sixth plenary session

- *The French Hub has entered an ecosystem consolidation phase*
- *The French Hub launches the Data Space Lab to provide a secure sandbox for data space projects to experiment with technological possibilities*
- *Sectoral data spaces give demonstrations*
- *Institut Mines-Télécom becomes head of the Gaia-X French Hub, working in close collaboration with Cigref*

At its sixth plenary session, the Gaia-X French Hub announced the start of an ecosystem consolidation phase, marking a new stage in its development. Institut Mines-Télécom, the new leader of Hub France, will play a central role in this phase, in close collaboration with Cigref, which is committed to implementing the key strategic growth strategies for this European initiative. Along with Teralab, its data and AI platform, Institut Mines-Télécom is also launching the Data Space Lab to help structure the various data ecosystems by creating a space for secure experimentation for companies of all sizes.

This sixth session was held on March 8 at the French Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty. It was attended by Marina Ferrari, Secretary of State in charge of Digital Affairs. The Gaia-X French Hub, which supports 600 members and coordinates 12 working groups, plays a key role in the European cloud and data landscape by proposing technical and legal sharing regulations. The management of the French Hub will now be handled by Institut Mines-Télécom with support from Cigref, the previous hub coordinator. The French Hub is gearing up for new challenges after the significant initial work led by Cigref to structure communities and implement "light-house" data space projects with Gaia-X standards spanning various sectors of activity such as mobility and energy. It is now entering an operational phase and will increase its technological support of data spaces. The Ministry has communicated the French Hub's key missions:

- **Promote the French Hub and lead its activities**
  - o Develop and lead the network of French members of Gaia-X through appropriate communication, including sharing information on social media and organizing events.

- **Coordinate the French Hub together with the Gaia-X authorities and other national hubs**

  o Coordinate the initiatives with actions carried out by Gaia-X, with the French Hub communicating the information and events to the French ecosystem. Interact with other national hubs operating in the same areas.

  o Coordinate the participation of French Hub members in the various decision-making bodies of Gaia-X, primarily its board of directors.

- **Support the contribution of French industry to the deployment of European and French data strategy**

  o Lead, coordinate and support the projects of its members, which help implement the European Data Strategy.

  o Facilitate the coordination of the French ecosystem's responses to calls for projects from the Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programs by strengthening its relations with the National Contact Points (NCPs) and relevant France 2030 initiatives.

  o Refer ecosystem projects to structures that can provide them with the technical support they need (e.g. research and technology transfer organizations, digital sandboxes equipped with the basic components for building data space prototypes in a secure environment, development of test environments).

Gaia-X is pursuing a growth strategy (increase in end users, new partners entering the ecosystem, internationalization) to position itself as a key player in the cloud and data sector with the aim of fostering digital sovereignty and innovation in Europe and beyond. The Gaia-X French Hub will increase its educational efforts and work to bring about cultural change, in particular via videos and training on technical tools.

Launch of the user-driven Data Space Lab

In keeping with this approach, Institut Mines-Télécom has launched the Data Space Lab and TeraLab, its data and AI platform, as a major step forward and a first for structuring the different ecosystems whose levels of technological maturity vary from one entity to the next. This space will provide a secure and neutral environment for experimenting with various data space projects, fostering innovation and collaboration according to Gaia-X standards. Users will be able to test different configurations of Gaia-X architectures and managed services regardless of their business model and the economic and regulatory context. The Data Space Lab will also provide training opportunities in addition to its sandbox.

Demonstration of sectoral data spaces

During the plenary session, several sectoral data spaces presented demonstrations of their initiatives, illustrating the diversity and potential of Gaia-X in key areas:

- Agriculture
- Automotive
- Construction

- [Education and skills](#)
- [Energy](#)
- [Aerospace industry](#)
- [Cultural and creative industry](#)
- [Manufacturing](#)
- [Mobility-Tourism](#)
- Aster-X (demonstration data space for the GXFS FR project)

Odile Gauthier, Executive President of Institut Mines-Télécom: *"I would like to acknowledge Cigref's efforts in accomplishing the significant work of educating and mobilizing users. The French Hub has supported the implementation of numerous data space projects, including three out of the ten Gaia-X lighthouse projects. Institut Mines-Télécom is now taking over to start the consolidation phase and accelerate the growth of Gaia-X by committing to work closely with companies and end users in particular, with ongoing connections with industrial sectors and Cigref."*

Gaia-X French Hub plenary session 2024 – free of copyright protection

About Gaia-X French Hub
Since it was first founded in 2020, the Gaia-X French Hub has been dedicated to creating a community of French users, companies, administrations and organizations with the dual aims of raising awareness and mobilization to make the most of the economic potential and technical and legal advantages of the Gaia-X ecosystem. The hub promotes the development and use of Gaia-X in France. It gathers stakeholders from science, business, politics and society to exchange experiences, acquire knowledge and join forces to put this knowledge into practice. It helps structure the ecosystem by organizing meetings and exchanges between working groups. It incubates data spaces that foster the development of new initiatives that meet Gaia-X standards while also boosting co-innovation in services and use cases. It coordinates the French Hub with Gaia-X authorities and other national hubs and supports the contributions of French industry to the deployment of the European and French data strategy.

About Institut Mines-Télécom www.imt.fr/en
Institut Mines-Télécom is the leading public group of French engineering and management schools to be placed under the supervisory authority of the Ministry of the Economy, Finances and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty. It is a public research and higher education institution made up of eight public graduate schools: IMT Atlantique, IMT Mines Albi, IMT Mines Alès, IMT Nord Europe, Institut Mines-Télécom Business School, Mines Saint-Étienne, Telecom Paris and Telecom SudParis as well as two subsidiary schools: EURECOM and InSIC. It leads and develops a rich ecosystem of partner schools and economic, academic and institutional partners and players in training, research and economic development. Created to meet France's needs in economic and industrial development since the 19th century, Institut Mines Télécom's graduate schools have supported all the communications and industrial revolutions. Through its research and its training of engineers, managers and PhD students, Institut Mines-Télécom tackles the major industrial, digital, energy and environmental challenges in France, Europe and around the world. Today, Institut Mines-Télécom and its 10 schools are imagining and building a world that combines science, technology and economic development with a respect for the planet and the people who live on it. It is double Carnot certified and trains 13,600 students every year.

in www.imt.fr

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About Cigref
Cigref is an independent, non-commercial association, founded in 1970, which supports its 150 members, large French companies and public administrations that use digital solutions and services, in all their reflections on their collective digital challenges. Our association works, for the benefit of its members, in favour of a sustainable, responsible and trusted digital environment.

More information on https://www.cigref.fr/