DATA SPACES SUPPORT CENTRE

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Open Technology Suppliers Forum Kick off of activities

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1. Plan for Building the Open Technology Stakeholders Forum

With the internal evaluation criteria, architectural blueprints, and strict standardization at the DSSC level, the Open Technology Suppliers Forum will launch its external operational phase.

This phase is designed to aggressively involve relevant stakeholders, working synchronously with them to achieve two overarching goals:

1. Refine the proposed compliance criteria and ecosystem descriptions through real world feedback
2. Aggregate and onboard all relevant, compliant ecosystem tools for official endorsement.

1.1 Target Audience and Stakeholder Acquisition

The Forum takes a highly targeted approach to its participant pipeline. The primary focus is seeking collaboration with **Data Space Managed Service Providers**. These entities are critical; they supply the participant agents, connector software, and facilitate "Data Space as a Service" offerings to end users and non-technical participants. By securing their involvement, we exponentially scale the reach of DSSC standards.

Additionally, specialized solution providers (offering niche tools like specialized policy enforcement engines or cryptographic auditing tools) and European Cloud Service Providers will be actively recruited. The initial stakeholder list established in the Grant Agreement included pioneers such as **Cofinity, Dawex, DeltaDao, Nexyo, and Sovity**. This core group will serve as the initial sounding board and first wave of test cases for the Toolbox endorsement process, after which the list will be aggressively expanded to capture a broader spectrum of the European market.
The Forum will also invite as initial participants all the DSSC toolbox providers and anyone interested in joining that are also participating in the identified relevant initiatives.

1.2 Structured Engagement Activities

To maintain momentum, drive the knowledge transfer required for SMEs to understand the DSSC guidance, and operationalize the adoption, the Forum has scheduled a rigorous calendar of recurring activities:

Table 1: Expected actions hosted by the Open Technology Suppliers Forum.

Type	Format & Description	Frequency	Primary Outcome
Webinar	1 to 2-hour online sessions. Focused on deep dives into specific topics followed by extensive Q&A to capture SME feedback.	4 times / year	Dissemination of WP4 Blueprint updates; clarification of standard requirements.
Workshop	3 to 4-hour immersive, technical sessions. These are hands on, engineering focused events where SMEs will work directly with code.	On demand	Practical upskilling of SME technical teams; direct generation of compliant Toolbox entries.
Event	A major DSSC-branded session featuring multiple keynote speakers, industry panels, and public recognition of endorsed tools.	1 time / year	Ecosystem visibility, networking between managed service providers, and high-level strategy alignment.

1.3 Enlarging the Community of Technology Adopters and SMEs

While engaging managed service providers and software vendors is essential for supplying the underlying data space infrastructure, a priority for the Open Technology Suppliers Forum is to enlarge the community of active technology adopters. SMEs form the backbone of the European economy, yet they often face significant resource, financial, and knowledge barriers when attempting to integrate into complex data sharing federations.

To ensure the DSSC ecosystem achieves true scale, the Forum will implement targeted outreach strategies aimed specifically at these end user organizations and smaller tech integrators. By actively engaging with SMEs to participate in Forum activities, webinars, and workshops, the DSSC will bridge the critical gap between high level architectural blueprints and practical, day-to-day implementation. This deliberate expansion of the community serves a dual purpose: it democratizes access to state of the art, open source data space technologies, and it provides essential, real world feedback to tool providers. Consequently, this ensures that the solutions endorsed within the DSSC Toolbox are not only technically

sound but are continuously refined to meet the everyday operational needs of the broader European market.

1.4 Open Technology Suppliers Forum kick-off webinar

The forum has already scheduled its first webinar for launching the activities. The webinar is already announced and scheduled for October 21st, 11:00 CET. This was done in collaboration with WP4 and the agenda included:

- Novelties on the toolbox (and DSSC in general) - Presented by WP4
- The Open Technology Suppliers Forum principles and plan - Presented by T5.2
- **First duty for the Open Technology Suppliers Forum: providing feedback for the evaluation criteria** - First draft presented by T5.2 and incorporating a way for the forum to provide feedback offline.

The following content is produced to be presented at the webinar, covering the last 2 points of the aforementioned agenda.

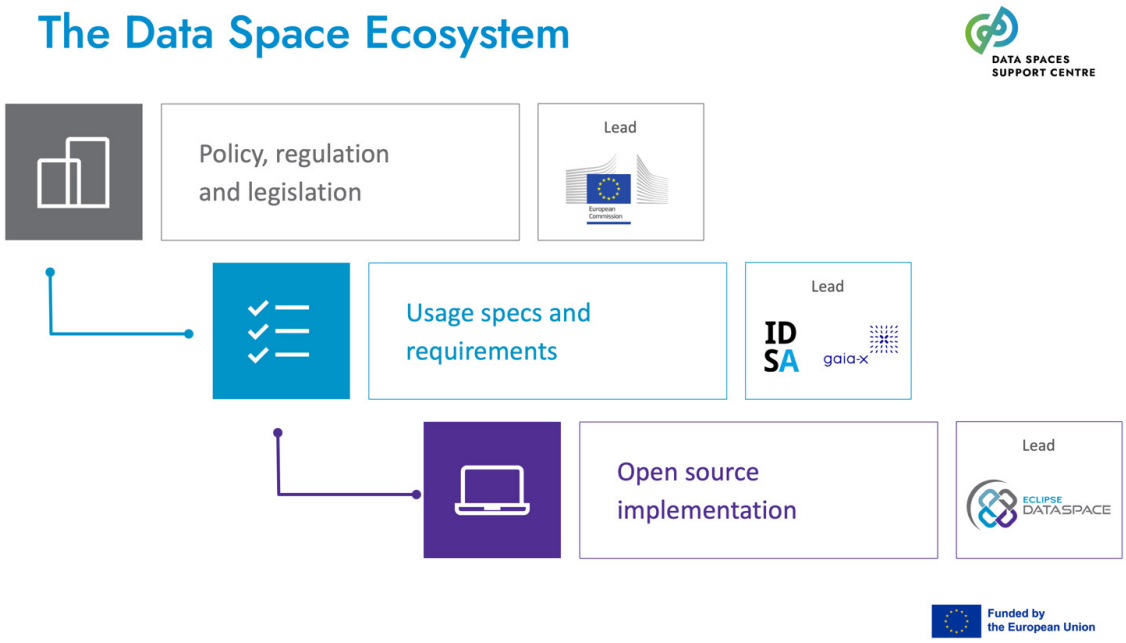


Figure 1: Webinar slide 1, the data space ecosystem.

The first slide positions the ecosystem. The data spaces ecosystem is rich and, because of that, it is not straightforward to understand everything that is done at every layer.
In a simplification to illustrate this point, three levels are presented:

- There are activities around legislation, regulation, etc. For those, the ecosystem stakeholders gather around organisations such as the European Commission (including the DSSC) so they lead the way.

- If the discussion is around business requirements, reference architectures or new use cases, the natural place is to use the data space associations (e.g. Gaia-X, IDSA, Catena-X, iShare, etc,) so they can lead the way,
- When it comes to real software and code for data spaces, the natural place is to use the Open Source Foundations to lead the way.

Given this plethora of activities, it is paramount to understand what everything is supposed to do and how they collaborate together. The OTSF should help giving clarity to this.

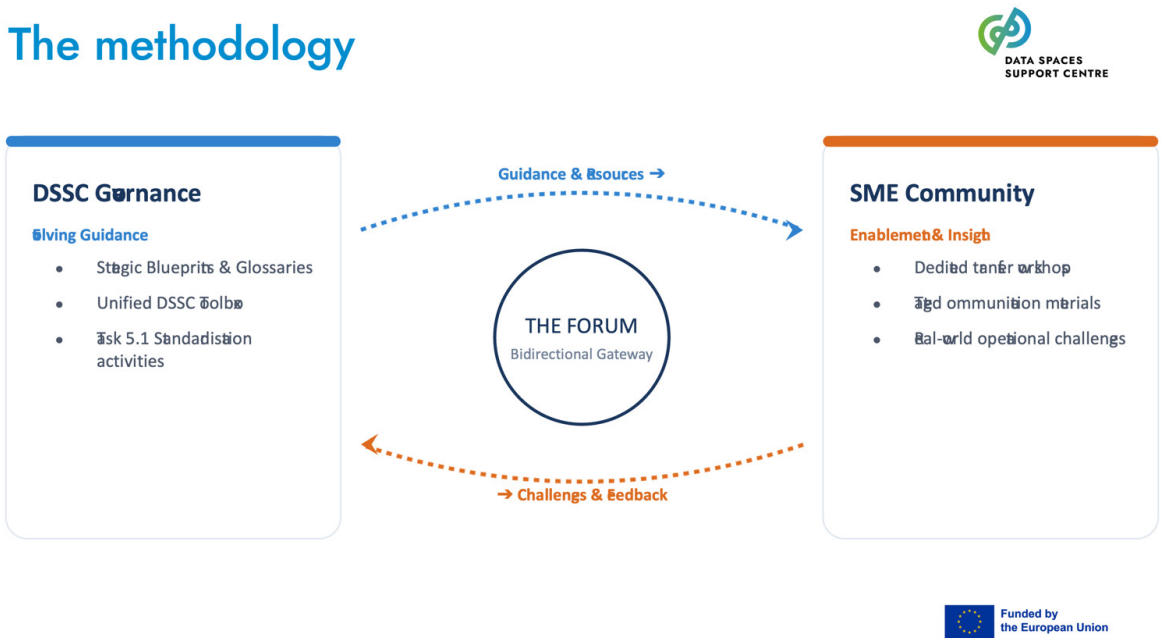


Figure 2: Webinar slide 2, the methodology.

The second slide positions the OTSF mission as described by the DSSC grant agreement, as an intermediary between the data space adopters (with focus on SMEs) and the consortium so that we can effectively communicate about the useful information they can take advantage of and also to make sure they have their say.

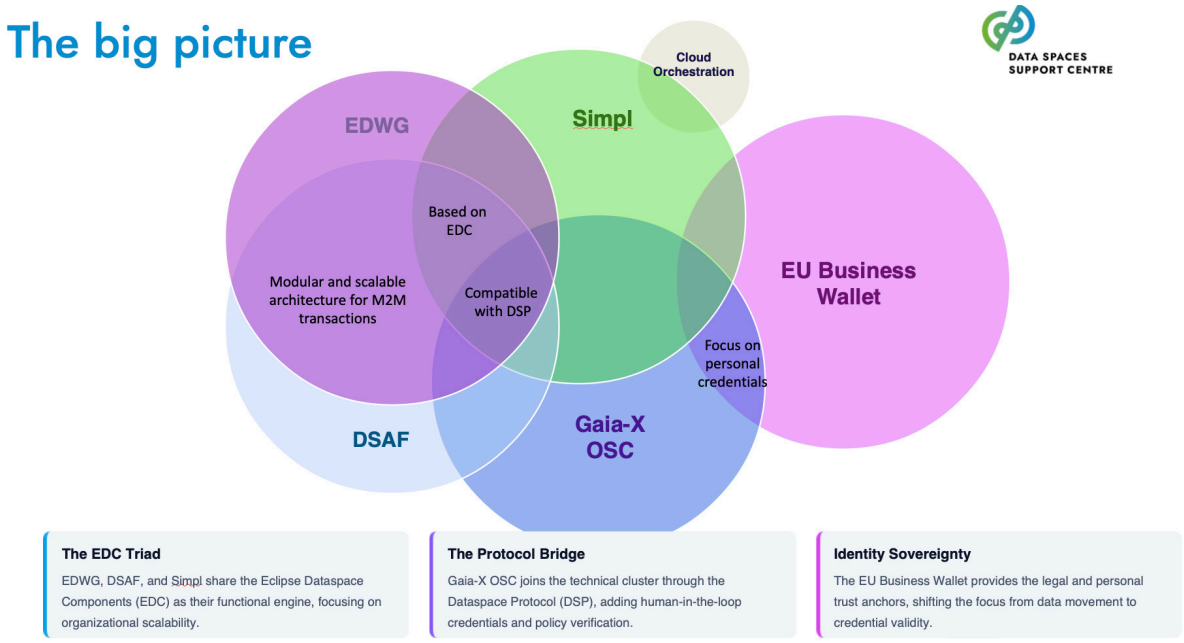


Figure 3: Webinar slide 3, data space adoption initiatives overlapping topics.

The third slide is also oriented to analyse the different initiatives running at different places (see slide 1) and focusing on adoption. Gaia-X has the Open Source Community. IDSA runs the Data Spaces Adoption Forum. The Eclipse Foundation hosts the Dataspaces Working Group. We have also initiatives such as Simpl by the European Commission or the EU Business Wallet. They all have common threads and things they can overlap on as described in the image.



Figure 4: Webinar slide 4, objectives of the Open Technology Suppliers Forum.

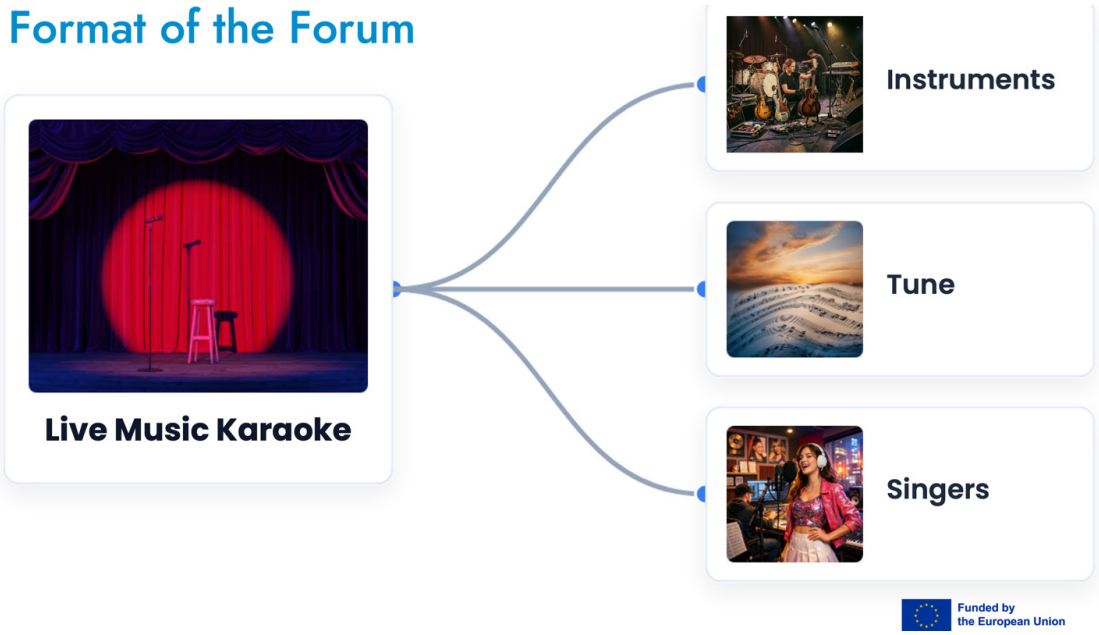


Figure 5: Webinar slide 5, the expected format and the live music karaoke analogy.

Once analysed the ecosystem, it is important to set the objectives to the task. The fourth slide illustrates what are the benefits we would like to see once the OTSF is completed.

The OTSF will be set up as a live karaoke. This analogy, illustrated in the fifth slide, means:

- It can feature tools that are included in the new DSSC toolbox. This are the instruments of the live karaoke.
- It can also present new updates in the DSSC blueprint. That is the tune the instruments play. It has certain rules to be harmonic and pleasant. Those are the interoperability requirements being imposed.
- Finally, it can showcase singers. They will sing on top of the tune played by the instruments. These are use cases of data spaces already operational.

They will be all scheduled and presented with the idea to provide clarity to the ecosystem.

2. Expected Results and Long-Term Impact

The rigorous execution of Task 5.2 and the establishment of the Open Technology Suppliers Forum will derive transformative outcomes for the project, transitioning it from fragmented development into a cohesive, interoperable set of solutions.

- **A Verifiable, Trusted Toolbox:** The most immediate technical result is the evolution of the DSSC Toolbox into an evaluable registry. Stakeholders will no longer rely on unverified self-reporting; they will access a catalogue of interoperable tools.
- **SME Market Empowerment:** By providing clear, standardized targets (ISO/IEC 20151, DSP, eIDAS 2.0), European SMEs are de-risked in their R&D investments. The Forum ensures these companies are highly visible and discoverable to large industrial data spaces, driving their commercial growth and competitiveness.
- **Accelerated Ecosystem Growth:** Pragmatic, guided onboarding mechanisms derived from initiatives like DSAF, combined with the hands on workshops, will drastically lower the barrier to entry for new actors. This accelerates the sheer volume of active participants within European data spaces.
- **Reinforced European Sovereignty:** By anchoring the software ecosystem to European values, Task 5.2 ensures that the foundational infrastructure of the future data economy remains open, interoperable, and inherently sovereign.