



**DATA SPACES
SUPPORT CENTRE**

Version 1.0 | March 2023

DSSC Glossary

Contact

The content of the glossary will evolve. Comments and change requests can be articulated by contacting the glossary editors directly and/or by leaving comments directly in the development version of the glossary online at <https://bit.ly/data-spaces-glossary>

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1 Introduction

The **primary function** of this glossary is to support smooth information sharing and co-development between the different data space initiatives and people involved and working with the Data Spaces Support Centre (DSSC). The **secondary objective** is to establish a common vocabulary for DSSC communication and publications of the DSSC.

The terms are listed in **meaningful (not alphabetical) order** in **four distinct categories** core concepts and roles, evolution of data spaces, EU regulation and activities and DSSC-specific terms. The glossary will be published at the dssc.eu website, so that alphabetical ordering and categories are alternative ways to navigate the glossary.

Every term in this glossary is provided with a **criterion as its description**. The idea is that different people (in the context of DSSC and data space initiatives) will make the same judgments when they use criteria in some (relevant) context - i.e. they would agree on whether or not something is (not) an instance (example) of the term.

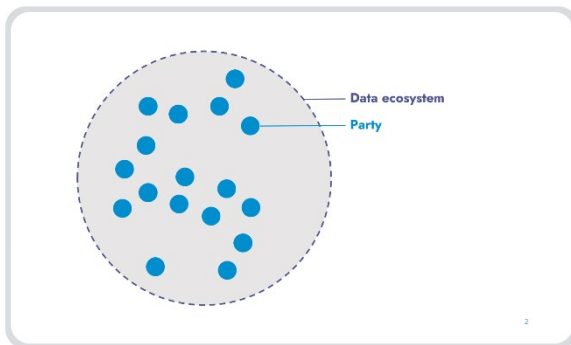
We accept that **others use and maintain their own terminology**. Lawyers do this all the time (almost every law starts to define the terms that are particular to that law; such a term may deviate from what it means in other laws/regulations). Software engineers also know this (they refer to this as 'namespaces' or 'schemas').

We define **the meanings that we need within the context of DSSC**, regardless of, yet inspired by, what others have done before. This should result in **consistent and coherent terminology** that we can use to express whatever we need to express.

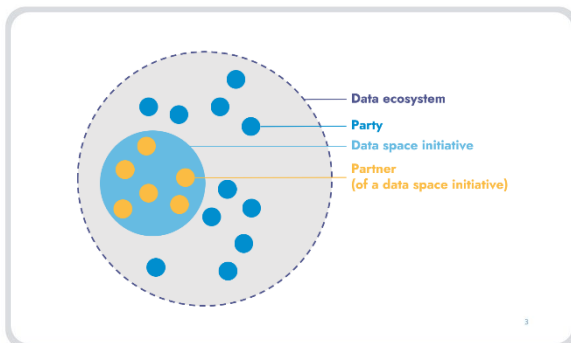
Some definitions may diverge from the common language of a specific community of practice but align with new pieces of (EU) legislation or evolving concepts in (international) standardisation efforts.

In order to enable people to fully appreciate the terms we define, supplementary texts are needed that describe how the various terms relate to each other. The supplementary notes will be published as part of the future releases of the glossary.

2 Core concepts and roles

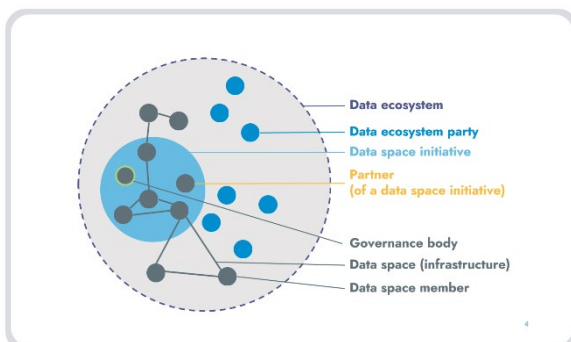


The core concepts and roles section contains a minimum set of most essential terms to express what data spaces are. A common understanding of these core terms and roles is critical for the convergence and interoperability of different data space architectures and -initiatives. The core concepts, and the relationships between them, will be elaborated in the [data spaces conceptual model](#).



This section offers a starting point for defining governance models for the data space initiatives. The list of core concepts and roles is intentionally limited to the minimum. Specific data space initiatives may add additional (sub)roles required in their context.

We start by postulating the existence of a **data ecosystem**, which one can perceive as a ‘universe’ where the **data ecosystem parties** (legal and natural persons) engage in **data sharing**.



The **data ecosystem parties** need reassurance that their data is used in ways they can accept and that the data they need from others will have the promised qualities. To practically enable such data sharing, groups of **parties** may organise themselves and start deploying and maintaining so-called **data spaces**.

Data space is an **infrastructure** that enables data transactions between different data ecosystem parties based on the governance framework of that data space.

Collaborative projects aiming to deploy and maintain a data space are called **data space initiatives**. The **parties** committed to contributing to a **data space initiative** are called **partners of the data space initiative**.

A major task of a **data space initiative** is to develop the **governance framework** that contains the rules and practices for the data space's governance, management, and operations. We use the term **governance body** to refer to the role that a **partner of the data space initiative** performs as it bears the responsibility for creating and maintaining the governance framework.

With the **data space governance framework** in place, various **data ecosystem parties** can commit to that framework and become **data space members** if accepted. They can benefit from the assurances provided by the framework as they **share data** with other **members of that data space**.

Term	Description
Data ecosystem	A loosely coupled set of autonomous parties engaging in data sharing .
Data sharing	Act of providing data access for use by others, subject to applicable technical, financial, legal, or organisational use requirements. The term refers to a full spectrum of practices related to sharing any kind of data, including open data and the many forms of sharing non-open data.
Data ecosystem party	Legal or natural person engaged in a data ecosystem .
Data space	An infrastructure that enables data transactions between different data ecosystem parties based on the governance framework of that data space. Data space should be generic enough to support the implementation of multiple use cases .
Governance Framework	The set of principles, standards, policies (rules/regulations) and practices that apply to the governance, management, and operations within a particular scope (e.g., a data space , a data space initiative , or data spaces blueprint) as well as to the enforcement thereof, and the resolution of any conflicts.
Governance	The creation, development, maintenance and enforcement of a governance framework for a particular scope.
Governance body	The party that is accountable for the governance of a particular governance framework . In any scenario, they do not replace the role of public enforcement authorities.
Data space initiative	A collaborative project of a consortium or network of committed partners to deploy and maintain a data space .
Partner of a data space initiative	A data ecosystem party that formally commits to contribute to a particular data space initiative .
Data space member	A data ecosystem party that has committed to the governance framework of data space and may have one or more roles in it.
Transaction participant	A data space member that directly participates in a data transaction in a data space by providing data, providing permissions related to the data or by receiving data and/or permissions to use the data.
Data transaction	An act between two or more transaction participants which has as its object the data usage and/or the rights permitting data usage. Data transaction relates to the technical and legal arrangements necessary to enable the proper use of data by the data receiver .
Data space enabler (role)	A data space member that provides a (technical or non-technical) service enabling data transactions for the transaction participants while not directly participating in that transaction itself. Examples of enabling services include identity provisioning, vocabulary provisioning, interconnecting, clearing, etc.
Data rights holder (role)	A transaction participant that has the legal right to use, grant access to or share certain data.
Data provider (role)	A transaction participant that, in the context of a specific data transaction, technically provides data to the data receivers that have a right or duty (granted by the data rights holder) to access and/or receive that data.

Data receiver (role)	A transaction participant to whom data is, or is to be technically supplied by a data provider in the context of a specific data transaction .
Data user (role)	A transaction participant that has been granted (lawful) access and the right to use data as the result of a specific data transaction . Also known as data rights receiver.
Data intermediary (role)	A data space enabler that (technically and legally) connects one or more data space members to the data space , thereby enabling them to establish relationships and execute data transactions with other members in the data space .

3 Evolution of data spaces (draft)

This section introduces relevant terminology for writing texts that deal with creating, maintaining and further evolving a data space. This is particularly of interest to people involved in data space initiatives.

Note: The terms in this section are less stable than the other terms in the glossary. We decided to include this section in draft format to stimulate discussion of the group of terms, especially the different life cycle stages of data space initiatives.

Data space use case	A potential usage scenario for a data space that is envisaged to solve business challenges or to create value as a result of one or more data space members .
Data space pilot	A planned and resourced implementation of one or more use cases within the context of a data space initiative . A data space pilot aims to validate the approach for a full data space deployment and showcase the benefits that data ecosystem parties could reap by becoming members of the data space to be built.
Life cycle	The sequence of stages that a data space initiative passes through during its lifetime, wherein each stage, the initiative has different needs and challenges. The different life-cycle stages are defined by stating the high-level pre-condition of the stage, i.e. the condition which is possible to evaluate and needs to be 'true' for a data space initiative to be in that stage.
Preparatory stage	The stage in the life cycle of a data space initiative that starts when there is a critical mass of committed partners of data space initiative collaborating on the joint development of data space and data space use cases .
Implementation stage	The stage in the life cycle of a data space initiative that starts when there is a sufficiently detailed project plan, milestones and resources (funding and other) for a data space pilot. The roles of the organisations involved in the data space pilot and the value created for each role are also clearly identified.
Operational stage	The stage in the life cycle of a data space initiative that starts when an initial tested implementation and governance framework of the data space exists, and the first data space use case becomes market-ready (with data flowing between data space members and use case providing the intended value).

Scaling stage	The stage in the life cycle of a data space initiative that starts when the data space has proven to consistently and organically gain new data space members and new data space use cases . It is adopted by a market as a viable solution and demonstrates sustainability and stability (financially and operationally). The data space can respond to market changes, adapt to them, and grow.
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4 EU regulation and activities

This section provides terms of EU regulation and activities. The purpose of having them here is to offer people who work with data spaces a means to easily look up such terms without having to search EU stuff themselves.

European Strategy for Data	A vision and measures (a strategy) that contribute to a comprehensive approach to the data economy that aims to increase the use of, and demand for, data and data-enabled products and services throughout the Single Market.
Digital Europe Programme	An EU funding programme that funds several data space related projects, among other topics. The programme is focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations.
Common European data space	A subclass of data spaces that adheres to European rules and values. The common European data spaces were introduced in the EU data strategy and referenced in the Data Governance Act and Data Act .
Data Governance Act (DGA)	The European regulation that aims to create a framework to facilitate European data spaces and increase trust between actors in the data market. The DGA entered into force in June 2022 and applies from Sept 2023. The DGA defines the European Data Innovation Board .
European Data Innovation Board (EDIB)	A formal expert group to advise and assist the European Commission on data sharing in the Union, as the Data Governance Act (Chapter VI) specifies. Its tasks include proposing guidelines for common European data spaces .
Guidelines for common European data spaces	The Data Governance Act (Art 30, paragraph h) defines that the European Data Innovation Board will propose guidelines for common European data spaces . The guidelines shall address, among other things: (i) cross-sectoral standards for data sharing, (ii) counter barriers to market entry and avoiding lock-in effects and ensuring fair competition and interoperability, (iii) protection for lawful data transfers to third countries, (iv) non-discriminatory representation of relevant stakeholders in the governance of common European data spaces and (v) adherence to cybersecurity requirements.
Data Act	European Union draft regulation to create a framework to harmonise rules on fair access to and use of data. The proposal was formally issued on 23 February 2022 and is expected to be finalised during 2023. The proposal (Art 28) sets essential requirements to facilitate the interoperability of data, data sharing mechanisms and services.

5 DSSC-specific terms

This section defines terms relevant within the context of the DSSC itself, ensuring that their meanings are understood similarly by all people working for and with the DSSC. This section contains terms for the main resources (DSSC assets), such as the blueprint, building blocks etc.

Data Spaces Support Centre	The virtual organisation and EU-funded project which supports the deployment of common European data spaces and promotes the reuse of data across sectors.
DSSC asset	A sustainable open resource that is developed and governed by the Data Spaces Support Centre . The assets can be used to develop, deploy and operationalise data spaces and to enable knowledge sharing around data spaces. The DSSC also develops and executes strategies to provide continuity for the main assets beyond the project funding.
Data spaces blueprint (asset)	A consistent, coherent and comprehensive set of guidelines to support the implementation, deployment and maintenance of data spaces . The blueprint contains the conceptual model of data space , data space building blocks , and recommended selection of standards, specifications and reference implementations identified in the data spaces technology landscape .
Conceptual model of data space (asset)	A consistent, coherent and comprehensive description of the concepts and their relationships that can be used to unambiguously explain what data spaces and data space initiatives are about, as perceived by the Data Space Support Centre . The conceptual model offers a starting point for defining the governance models for data space initiatives.
Data space building block (asset)	A basic unit or component that can be implemented and combined with other building blocks to achieve the functionality of a data space .
Catalogue of building blocks	An organised inventory of data space building blocks recommended by the Data Space Support Centre . The catalogue defines the building blocks and provides references to multiple options for their implementation.
Data space building block implementer	A party that maintains an implementation of a data space building block published in the catalogue of building blocks . One building block may have several implementations and implementers.
Data spaces technology landscape (asset)	A repository of standards (de facto and de jure), specifications and open-source reference implementations available for deploying data spaces . The data spaces support centre curates the repository.
Data spaces starter kit (asset)	A document that helps organisations and individuals in the network of stakeholders to understand the requirements for creating a data space .
DSSC Glossary (asset)	A limited set of data spaces related terms, where each term has a criterion as its definition. The criterion enables people to determine whether or not something is an instance/example of the concept to which the term refers.
Data spaces taxonomy (asset)	A classification scheme used to describe, analyse and organise data space initiatives according to a defined set of characteristics.

Data spaces radar (asset)	A publicly accessible tool to provide an overview of the data space initiatives , their sectors, locations and approximate maturity levels ranging from initial use cases to data space pilots and data spaces in production.
Community Heartbeat	The regular release of the data spaces blueprint , data spaces building blocks , other DSSC assets and supporting activities, as outlined in a public roadmap. The regular releases aim to engage the community of practice into a rhythm of communication, co-learning and continuous improvement.
Community of practice	The set of existing and emerging data space initiatives in all sectors and the set of (potential) data space building block implementers . DSSC prioritise first the data space projects funded by the Digital Europe Programme and other relevant programmes and will later expand to additional data space initiatives.
Relationship Manager	A person from the Data Spaces Support Centre that serves as the dedicated DSSC contact point for a data space initiative or another member of the community of practice .
Network of stakeholders	The group of parties relevant to the development of data spaces and with whom the Data Spaces Support Centre (DSSC) proactively engages in achieving its purpose and objectives. The community of practice is the core subset of this network of stakeholders and the primary focus group for the DSSC.
Strategic stakeholder forum	The designated group of experts that provide strategic support for the DSSC and make recommendations for the governance and sustainability of the DSSC assets . The strategic stakeholder forum is composed of a large variety of stakeholders with a balanced geographical distribution and will evolve progressively.
Data space support organisation	An organisation, consortium, or collaboration network that specifies architectures and frameworks to support data space initiatives . Examples include Gaia-X, IDSA, FIWARE, iSHARE, MyData and more.