

**EVENT REPORT**

**2024**

EUROPEAN  
**BIG DATA  
VALUE** FORUM

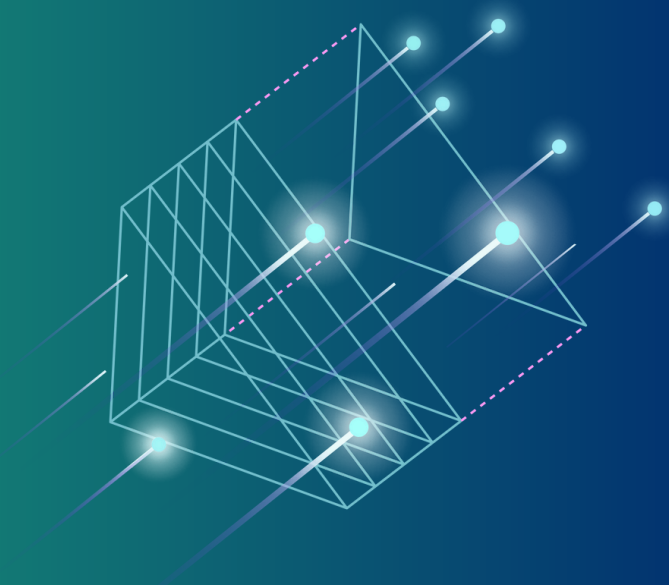
2-4 OCT | BUDAPEST - HUNGARY

**EUROPE**

**FOR GLOBAL**

**LEADERSHIP**

**IN AI & DATA**



ORGANISED BY  
**BDV** BIG DATA VALUE  
ASSOCIATION

IN COLLABORATION WITH



ELTE  
EÖTVÖS LORÁND  
UNIVERSITY



Neumann  
Technology  
Platform



**EXPO**



EUROPEAN  
**BIGDATA  
VALUE** FORUM  
2-4 OCT | BUDAPEST - HUNGARY

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FOR GLOBAL  
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EU ELITE NTA H2020 EXPO

**Accelerating  
data-driven  
innovation in  
Europe** ➔

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BIG DATA VALUE  
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## ORGANISED BY



## IN COLLABORATION WITH



## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



## START UP/MICRO SME





## PARTNERS





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EUROPEAN  
**BIG DATA  
VALUE** FORUM  
2-4 OCT | BUDAPEST - HUNGARY

European Big Data Value Forum is BDVA's flagship event, bringing the whole European data-driven AI research and innovation community together to share knowledge, collaborate and celebrate achievements. This year's event took place from 2-4 October 2024 in Budapest, Hungary. EBDVF 2024 was organised in collaboration with local partners.

EBDVF brought together industry professionals, business developers, researchers and policy-makers from all over Europe and other regions of the world to advance policy actions and industrial and research activities in the areas of Data and AI.

The programme included the most important topics of the community, presented by our members, collaboration partners and representatives from European research and innovation projects. Together we delivered sessions and workshops shaping the way forward for big data and data spaces, illuminating how businesses can harness the power of Trustworthy AI and discuss the role of high-performance computing as an enabler for digital transformation. We took a comprehensive view of these topics from the perspective of many European economic sectors not forgetting the societal implications of the rapidly advancing technologies.

EBDVF was part of TechDays Hungary, a series of autonomously-organised events that took place from 30 September to 8 October in Budapest.

The overall programme included high-level plenaries, panels and parallel sessions over three days. The programme was organised based on themes from a sectorial and cross-sectorial angle.

## REGISTRATIONS



**468**

## SESSIONS



**43**

## SPEAKERS



**180**

## PARTNERS & SPONSORS

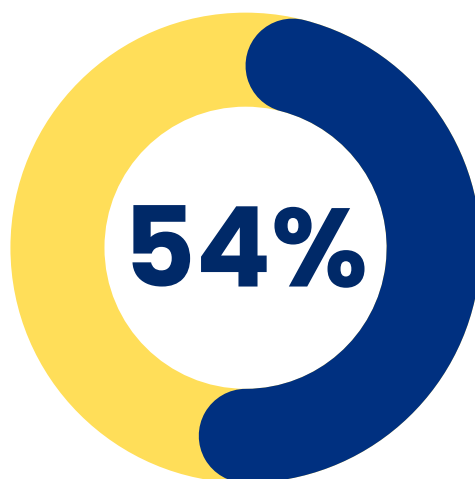


**71**

## BOOTHS



**24**



**BDVA MEMBERS**





## ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Thomas Hahn (BDVA President – Siemens)
- Ana García Robles (BDVA Secretary General)
- Laure Le Bars (BDVA Vice President – SAP)
- Valerio Frascolla (BDVA Vice President – Intel)
- Nuria De Lama (IDC)
- Sinna Rissanen (BDVA)
- Daniel Djamo (BDVA)
- Edina Nemeth (National Contact Point Cluster 4, Hungary / Ideal-ist)
- András Benczúr (AI&AUT Expo / Institute for Computer Science and Control, MTA SZTAKI)
- András Lukács (Eötvös Loránd University – ELTE)
- Dóra Mattyasovszky-Philipp (Institute for Computer Science and Control, MTA SZTAKI)
- Gábor Érdi-Krausz (Institute for Computer Science and Control, MTA SZTAKI)
- Ferenc Kása (Neumann Technology Platform)
- László Személyi (Neumann Technology Platform)
- Balázs Nyers (SAP)
- Lilla Szabad (SAP)

## SPONSORING COMMITTEE

- Edina Nemeth (National Contact Point Hungary Cluster 4 / Ideal-ist)
- Bianka Vig (SAP)
- Gabor Erdi-Krausz (Institute for Computer Science and Control, MTA SZTAKI)
- Sinna Rissanen (BDVA)

## LOGISTICS COMMITTEE

- Edina Nemeth (National Contact Point Hungary Cluster 4 / Ideal-ist)
- Katica Bitter (Institute for Computer Science and Control, MTA SZTAKI)
- Sinna Rissanen (BDVA)

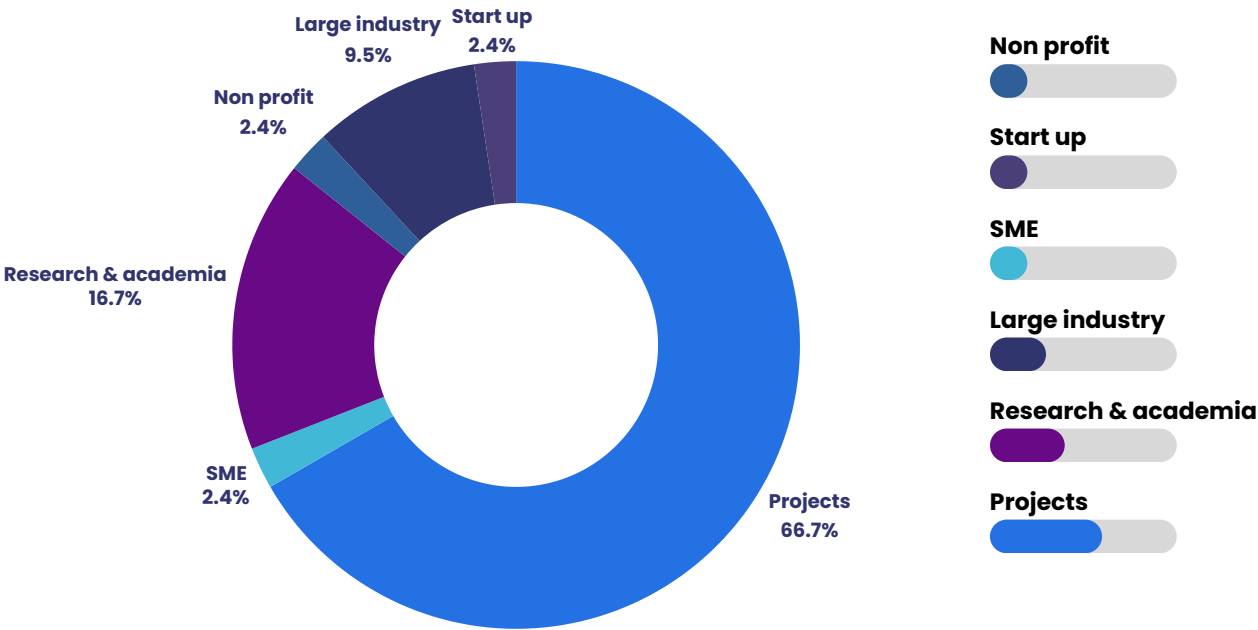
## PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- Thomas Hahn (BDVA President – Siemens)
- Ana García Robles (BDVA Secretary General)
- Laure Le Bars (BDVA Vice President – SAP)
- Valerio Frascolla (BDVA Vice President – Intel)
- Patrick van der Smagt (BDVA BoD – Volkswagen)
- Davide Dalle Carbonare (BDVA BoD – Engineering Group)
- Tuomo Tuikka (BDVA BoD – VTT)
- Jeanette Nilsson (BDVA BoD – RISE)
- Nuria De Lama (IDC)
- Annamária Nagy (EC – DG CNECT)
- Sinna Rissanen (BDVA)
- Edina Nemeth (National Contact Point Cluster 4, Hungary / Ideal-ist)
- András Benczúr (AI&AUT Expo / Institute for Computer Science and Control, MTA SZTAKI)
- András Lukács (Eötvös Loránd University – ELTE)
- Dóra Mattyasovszky-Philipp (Institute for Computer Science and Control, MTA SZTAKI)
- Ferenc Kása (Neumann Technology Platform)
- Ádám Szigeti (Evosoft Hungary Kft)
- Balázs Nyers (SAP)
- Lilla Szabad (SAP)

## COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

- Edina Nemeth (National Contact Point Hungary Cluster 4 / Ideal-ist)
- Manna Kenderesi (SAP)
- Bálint Laza (Institute for Computer Science and Control, MTA SZTAKI)
- Daniel Djamo (BDVA)

# EBDVF 2024 SPONSORS AND PARTNERS





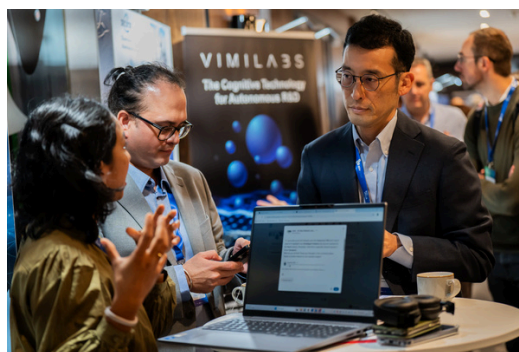
**1** START UP / MICRO SME

**3** SILVER

**5** GOLD

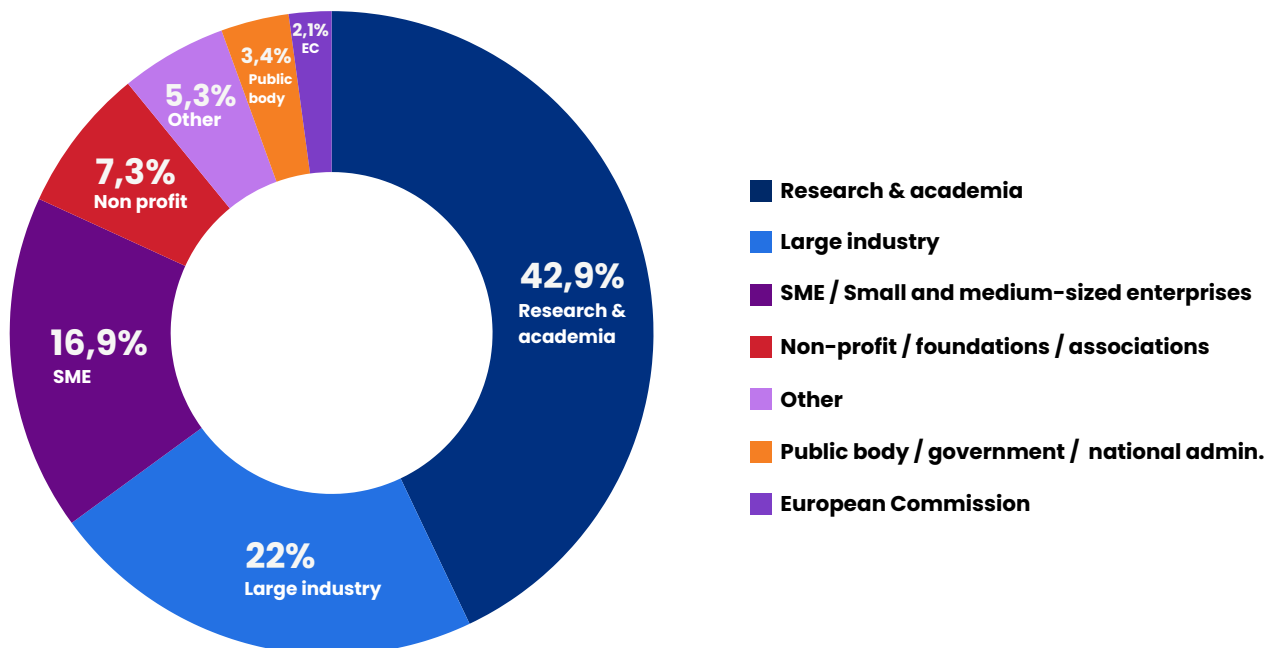
**5** PLATINUM

**57** PROJECTS

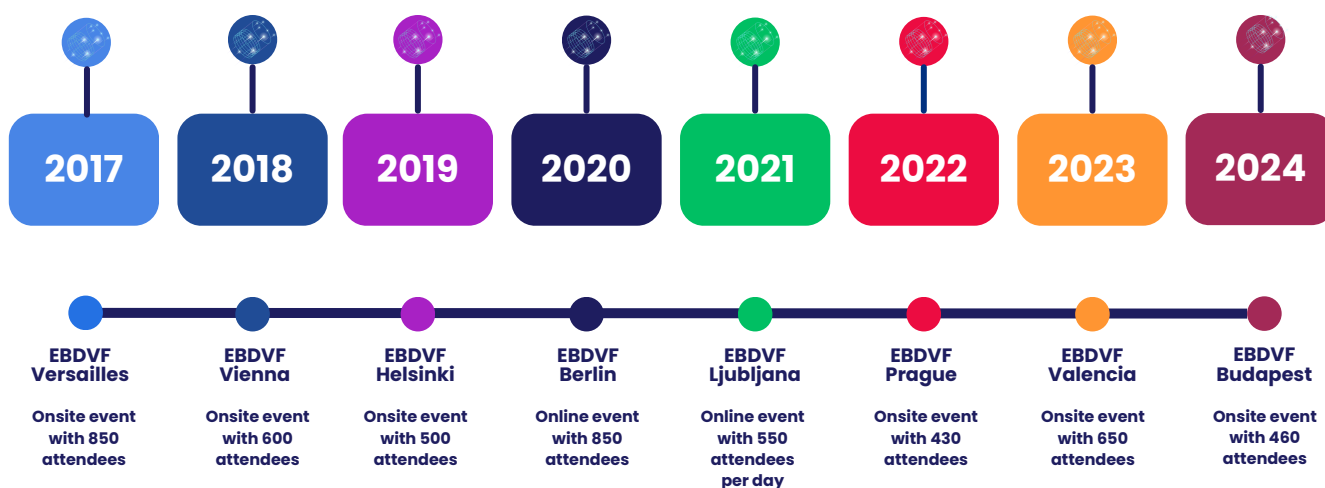




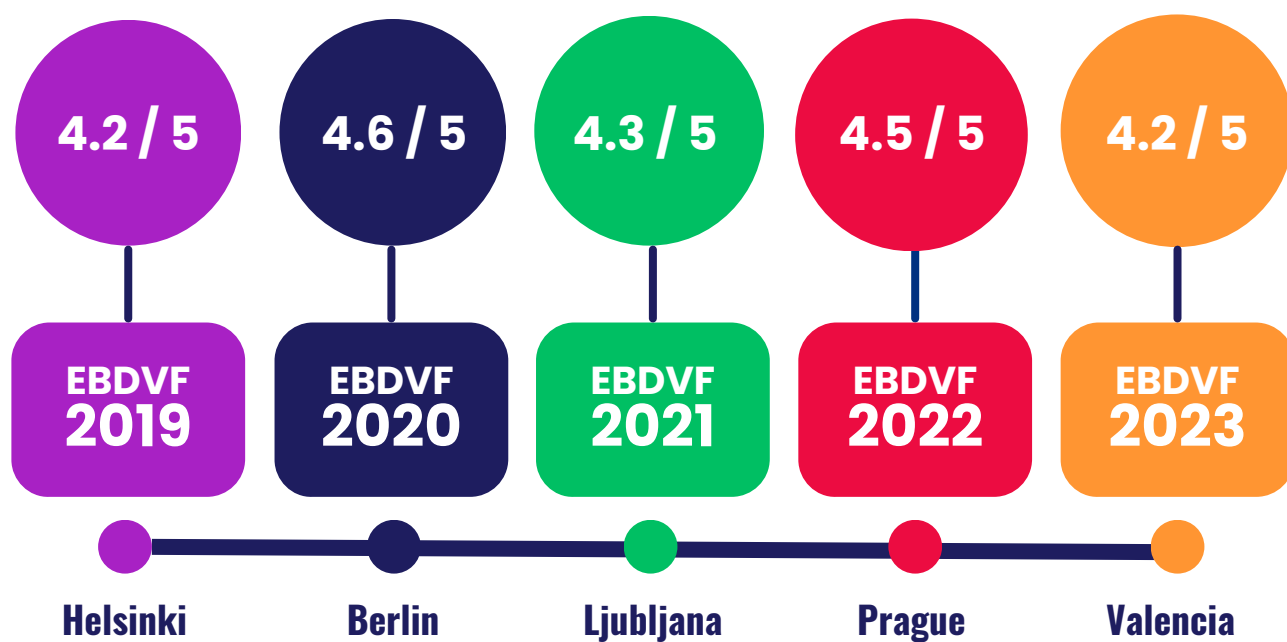
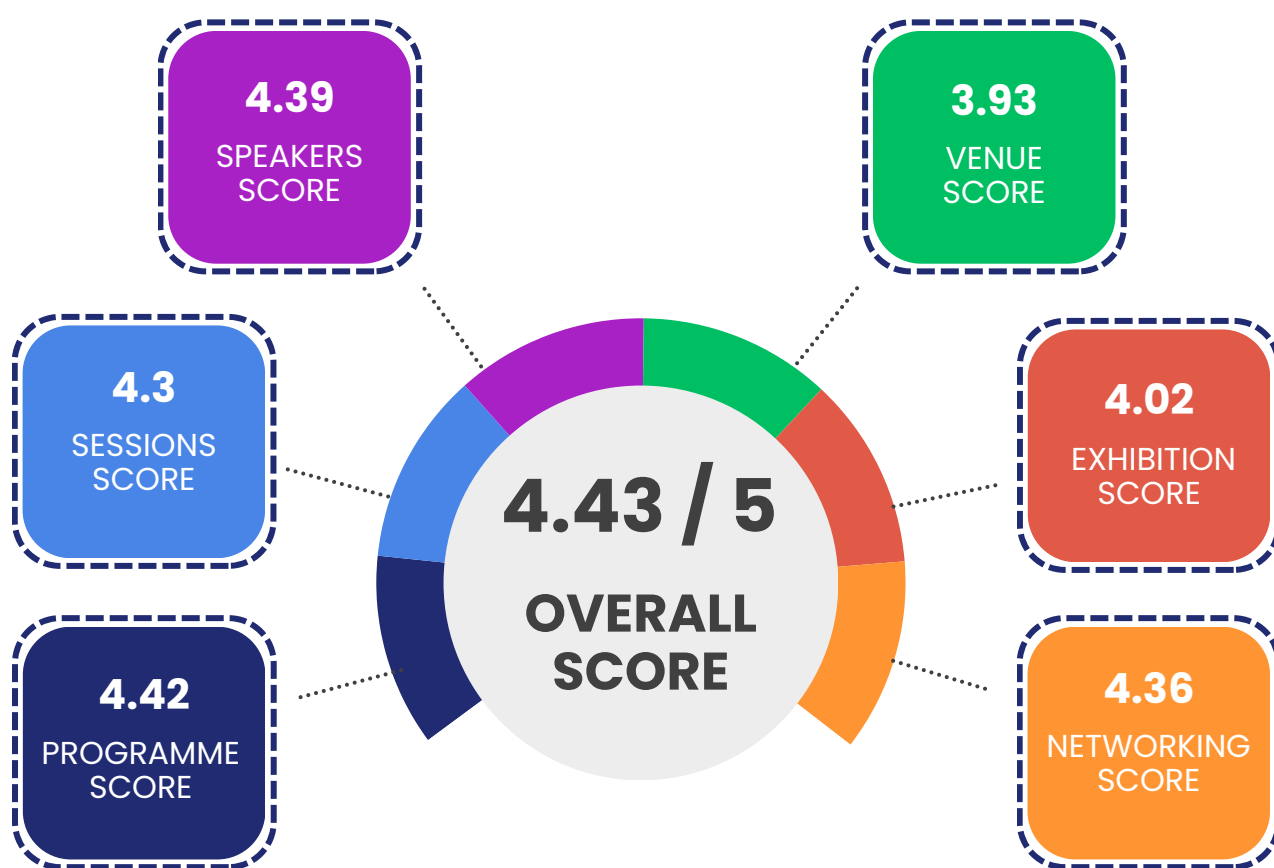




## OUR AUDIENCE OVER THE YEARS









»» **10 years**

BDVA is an industry-driven international not-for-profit organisation with 250 members all over Europe and a well-balanced composition of large, small and medium-sized industries, start-ups as well as research and user organisations. Our mission and objectives are:

- To boost Data and AI research, development and innovation for European competitiveness, societal wellbeing and sustainable progress
- To develop the innovation ecosystem that enables and accelerates the data-driven and AI-enabled digital transformation of the economy and society, with European values and focus but global impact and ambitions.
- To foster excellence in European Data and AI research, in science and business.
- To anticipate, lead and keep up with the dynamic change that Data and AI brings to business and society.

BDVA enables existing regional multi-partner cooperation, to collaborate at the European level through the provision of tools and know-how to support the cocreation, development and experimentation of pan-European data-driven and AI applications and services and know-how exchange. Through BDVA, its Task Forces and labelled hubs (i-Spaces), our members build new collaborations, co-create new projects, share knowledge and jointly develop guidelines, frameworks and strategic roadmaps for industry and policymakers. Together with our members and our collaboration partners, we advance all related areas connected to the data economy such as data spaces, data privacy, industrial and ethical AI, generative AI, business models, standardisation, skills, computing and many others. BDVA is contributing to all these discussions, having significant impact, developing relevant collaborations and with a very well-established community of members that are at the core of the European data and AI ecosystems!

BDVA is a private member of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking and it is a founder member of the AI, Data and Robotics Partnership. BDVA has developed a strong and growing cooperation with Gaia-X, IDSA and FIWARE through the Data Spaces Business Alliance (DSBA) and collaborates with many data and industry-driven AI national initiatives and other European communities.

In October 2024 the BDVA community celebrates the Association's 10th anniversary, that keeps on growing in breadth and in depth thanks to our members, our team and our collaboration partners. Join us in the celebration!

BDVA is open to new members! Visit [BDVA.EU](https://bdva.eu) to learn more about members and activities. You can contact us anytime at [info@bdva.eu](mailto:info@bdva.eu).



# EBDVF 2024 AGENDA DAY 1

## PLENARY ROOM

ROOM GOLD

ROOM SILVER

ROOM BLACK

ROOM WHITE

8:00

Registration opens - morning coffee

9:00

Consolidating Research and Policy along the Cognitive Computing Continuum with NexusForum.EU

How can HPC help with Big Data problems ?

The world of smart data at the service of Health

Accelerating smart farming digital transformation via big satellite data

10:00

Enabling Cloud Connected Labs of Future

Powering Manufacturing SMEs with Digital Twins: (E)DIHs Leading the Change2Twin Revolution

Showcasing innovative research for synthetic data generation from the HealthData4EU cluster projects: AISYM4MED, SYNTHEMA, SECURED

Interoperability of data spaces for seamless value creation networks

11:00

Coffee break

11:30

AI Factories: Addressing the data challenge

Improving Data Maturity of Manufacturing SME

Synthetic Data in Healthcare

Leveraging AI and Data Spaces to Revolutionise Agrobusiness

13:00

Networking lunch

14:00

Innovative Approaches to Extreme Data Challenges

Bringing Advanced Digital Technologies to Applications in the Road Transport Sector

Future of Public Service services via improved Interoperability and AI

Deep dive on Semantic Interoperability in Data Spaces

15:30

Coffee break

16:00

Europe for global leadership in AI and Data: How we can achieve it following the European values

New frontiers in AI Act operationalisation

17:00

AI Strategy Hungary 2030

Language Data Space – European Language Data

Semantic Interoperability: key takeaways and recommendations

18:00

i-Spaces ceremony

Networking cocktail

**Plenary**  
Generative AI and Foundation models  
AI Act implementation  
Value creation in data spaces  
Virtual Worlds  
Healthcare and Pharma

**Emerging topics**  
Technology Platforms  
Automotive  
Coffee breaks  
Lunch  
Social event

**Convergence** HPC- Big Data / AI  
**Public services**  
Manufacturing  
Energy  
Agri-Food

# EBDVF 2024 AGENDA DAY 2

## PLENARY ROOM

ROOM GOLD

ROOM SILVER

ROOM BLACK

ROOM WHITE

8:30

Morning coffee / Exhibition

9:00

Welcome statements from the organisers and collaboration partners

European Commission DG CNECT keynote speech

09:45

Europe for Global leadership in AI and Data – A policy and research perspective (panel)

10:40

Coffee break

11:05

Europe for Global leadership in AI and Data – An industry perspective (panel)

12:00

Leveraging Standards to Foster Trust and Interoperability in Data Spaces

Using Generative AI agents in the real world

12:30

Networking lunch

13:30

How to make AI  
Factory's the enabler of  
European  
competitiveness

GenAI for data and AI  
knowledge  
engineering

Value Creation  
in Data Spaces

Towards a circular  
data-ecosystem for  
general-purpose  
robotics

15:00

Coffee break

15:30

OpenWebSearch.eu – Web-  
data at your fingertips for  
Generative AI, Data  
Analytics and Search

Data, AI, and  
Interoperability: Shaping the  
Regulatory Sandbox  
Ecosystem for Innovation

The role of Manufacturing  
Data Spaces in the  
implementation of Digital  
Product Passports

Advancing Data  
Lifecycle  
Management:  
Tools and  
Strategies for  
Enhanced  
Monetisation

16:45

Applying Gen  
AI to European  
industry

RISK assessment and  
trust in socio-technical  
AI-systems

Digital  
technologies  
and processes  
for sustainable  
and secure data  
management,  
use and re-use  
of data

The IntelliMan Project: AI-  
Powered Manipulation System  
for Advanced Robotic Service,  
Manufacturing and Prosthetics

17:45

Revolutionising Human-Robot  
Collaboration with Cognitive  
Control and Safe Interaction  
Through Proxy-Tactile  
Perception

18:00

20:15

EBDVF 2024 Social dinner: Spoon The Boat

### Plenary

Generative AI and Foundation models

AI Act implementation

Value creation in data spaces

Virtual Worlds

Healthcare and Pharma

### Emerging topics

Technology Platforms

Automotive

Coffee breaks

Lunch

Social event

### Convergence HPC- Big Data / AI

Public services

Manufacturing

Energy

Agri-Food

# EBDVF 2024 AGENDA DAY 3

## PLENARY ROOM

ROOM GOLD

ROOM SILVER

ROOM BLACK

ROOM WHITE

8:30

Morning coffee / Exhibition

9:00

Leveraging the energy data space for deploying Digital Twins and big data AI services to speed up energy transition

ExtremeXP: A new experimentation-driven and user-experience paradigm to AI and Data Analytics processes

Moving to the edge: the impact and implications of CEI continuum on Manufacturing

Data and AI for sustainable, human-centric Virtual Worlds

10:00

From theory to action: RecAL project as a data space for circular aluminium

Leveraging Technologies for Data Management to Implement Data Spaces

Expert talks on Virtual Worlds

10:45

Emergency Management: Challenges and Solutions

If you think AI is hot, wait until it meets Quantum Computing

Data Value creation via Sustainable and Ethical Data Sharing

11:45

Coffee break

12:15

AI in Telecoms: The Data Challenge

Let's build Data Spaces together!

Generative AI and Data Spaces

12:50

Simpl and the European data strategy

The blueprint for data spaces - DSSC blueprint v1.5 (talk)

Expanding data-driven ecosystems across sectors and global value chains (panel)

Event closing

14:00

Networking lunch

### Plenary

Generative AI and Foundation models  
AI Act implementation  
Value creation in data spaces  
Virtual Worlds  
Healthcare and Pharma

### Emerging topics

Technology Platforms  
Automotive  
Coffee breaks  
Lunch  
Social event

### Convergence HPC- Big Data / AI

Public services  
Manufacturing  
Energy  
Agri-Food



# EBDVF 2024 Exhibition

Crowne Plaza Budapest, 1st floor

Room  
Silver

Room  
Gold

Elevators

Dawex

SZTAKI

SZTAKI

Change2Twin

OpenWebSearch

Novatrust

EVOSOFT

PISTIS, UPGCAST, DATAMITE, FAME,  
GRAPH-MASSIVIZER, EnrichMyData

Healthcluster

NCSR  
Demokritos

SINTEF

6G-XR

ExtremeXP

Adra

Decode

Helmholtz

ILVO

Sestosenso +  
Intelliman

DataNexus

LDS

BDVA

Ideal-ist

OTE

NEC

Room  
White

Room  
Black







## **EBDVF DAY 1**

**BDVA President Thomas Hahn** offered an industry perspective over our event's main theme, regarding Europe as a driving force in AI and Data, while also covering the main topics and underlining the valuable role of BDVA, its members and collaboration partners for the entire Data and AI ecosystem.

**Lucilla Sioli (European Commission, Director European AI Office - DG Connect)** afterwards started by offering a highly important update on the current state of play of the AI Office.

This was followed by a panel covering the AI Act implementation, "**New frontiers in AI Act operationalisation**", a key topic for our community, as it will allow us to apply AI ethical principles beyond legal rules. The conversation featured **Lucilla Sioli, Patrick van der Smagt (Head of etami and Professor, ELTE University and Volkswagen Machine Learning Research Lab), Irene López de Vallejo (Head of EU Affairs at CTIC Technology Centre) and Krisztina Balazs (PMO Associate at OTP Bank)**, and covered the governance principles needed to ensure the use of ethics at all stages.

**Roland Jakab (President of the AI Coalition Hungary)** offered a keynote speech **focused on Hungary's artificial intelligence strategy until 2030**. In addition to technological focuses and transformative projects, the strategy addresses foundational pillars, among which research plays a highlighted role, alongside the data industry, regulation, and infrastructure. The most important elements of the research pillar are the National Laboratories, which are implemented by universities and institutes of the Hungarian Research Network. Similar to other fields, the emergence of artificial intelligence is fundamentally changing the world of research, which is why we have developed HUN-REN's comprehensive AI strategy, the AI4Science program. Its goal is to strengthen HUN-REN's scientific and innovation capabilities in international competition and to increase social, economic, and intellectual impact by integrating research and innovation results into the value chain.

**Katrin Marheinecke (DFKI Project Manager - Speech and Language Technology)** and **Annika Grützner-Zahn (DFKI Junior Researcher)** gave a keynote presentation titled "**Language Data Space – European Language Data**", talking about one of the official EU data spaces currently under development, the Common European Language Data Space (LDS). It underlined how LDS will significantly increase the much-needed availability of clean, high-quality, compliant language data to support the development of state-of-the-art large language models (LLMs) as well as other language technologies (LT) and AI-based LT services for a range of businesses. Also, they talked about how the LDS will help European industry to compete globally with the LLM and LT services provided by US and Chinese companies, and to build trust throughout the language data sharing process.

**Edward Curry (Professor at Insight Centre)** and **Martin Kaltenböck (co-founder of the Semantic Web Company)** switched the discussion to the "**Semantic Interoperability: key takeaways and recommendations**" segment, as Ed Curry and Martin Kaltenböck have provided a short overview of key insights from the discussions held during the event on semantic interoperability, and specifically its application to data spaces. These discussions explored various existing approaches to semantic interoperability, examining how it is implemented within specific domains and across sectors, as well as relevant standards. The talk distilled these findings, offering recommendations and outlining potential next steps for advancing interoperability in the context of data spaces.

We concluded the day with the **i-Spaces ceremony**, during which BDVA announced the 2024 i-Spaces. We invite you to discover the segment dedicated to the ceremony in the following pages.







## **i-SPACES 2024 CEREMONY**

The **i-Space label** is a quality standard that serves as a benchmark, supporting organisations in their growth and helping them achieve their ambitions of expanding their networks and increasing their impact. The entities that have obtained the i-Space label form a community of **31 hubs** across **20 countries** in Europe, creating unique opportunities for collaboration and synergy building. The i-Spaces community is today a large European network of federated hubs fostering data innovation and AI experimentation grounded in secure data-sharing and computing facilities. By federating themselves, these organisations have formed a super-core for Europe, bringing together computing power, ethical guidelines, business models and more, creating a pan-European federated catalogue that accelerates the evolution and adoption of data-driven innovation and AI technologies.

The official announcement of the two new organisations that joined the i-Spaces community took place during EBDVF, as these have obtained their BDVA i-Space label for the first time. On October 2nd, during the i-Spaces ceremony, the **Data Space Demonstration Centre of Catalonia** and **GATE i-Space** were officially welcomed within the community by **BDVA President Thomas Hahn**, **BDVA Vice-president Laure Le Bars** and **BDVA Secretary General Ana García Robles**. On the same day, Algebra LAB, was granted a label of a new tier – the Gold BDVA i-Space label, to recognise its continuous growth and all the progress of the organisation within the last year.

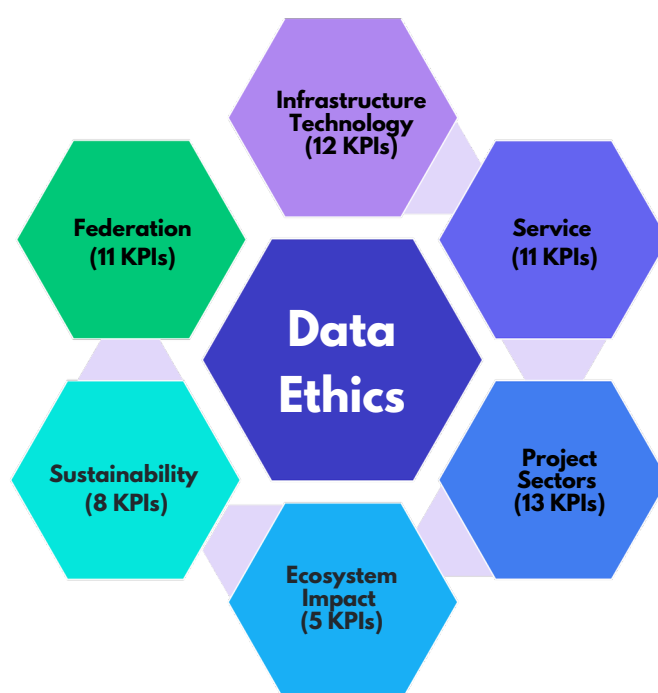
**Algebra LAB** is a Slovenian-based Digital Innovation Hub, which serves as a one-stop-shop for companies, willing to undergo Digital transformation. It is an open innovation lab offering access to a network of experts, applied research and a platform for knowledge dissemination.

**Data Space Demonstration Centre of Catalonia**, is an undertaking of i2CAT institute, located in Barcelona. Its focus is on such topics like 5G/6G, IoT, immersive and interactive technologies and Artificial Intelligence.

**GATE i-Space** was established by the GATE Institute – the first Centre of Excellence in Bulgaria. The ambition of the organisation is to work on Big Data and Artificial Intelligence at the regional and European levels, actively engaging with the local Bulgarian community, e.g. with the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics of Sofia University.

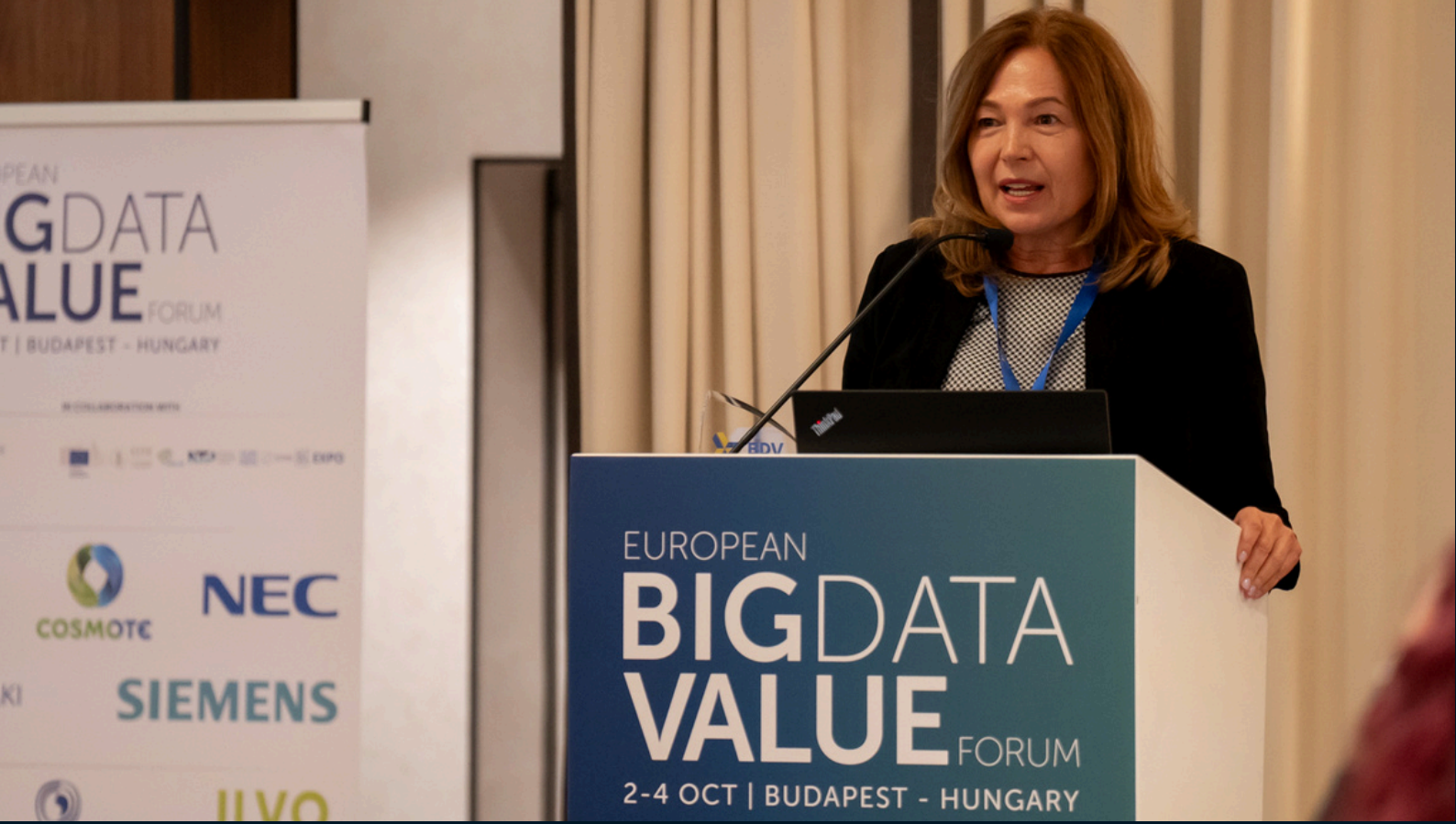
BDVA recognises the i-Spaces as pivotal instruments for driving data-driven innovation in Europe. These cross-sectorial and cross-organisational innovation hubs are central points for regional technology businesses to develop their products. i-Spaces accelerate the uptake of data-driven innovation across commercial sectors such as Manufacturing 4.0, Logistics, e-commerce and several others. Providing secure accelerator-style environments for running experiments in both private and open data, i-Spaces foster technology and application development. The evaluation process conducted by BDVA emphasises excellence in crucial domains such as infrastructure, services, projects and sectors, ecosystem/impact, business/sustainability strategy, federation capabilities and ethics.

**Find out more about all of the other i-Spaces here!**











## **EBDVF DAY 2**

Day 2 started with opening statements from the event organisers, as they talked about the importance of gathering key players from the European data-driven AI research and innovation community together to share knowledge. If we aspire to create value from data, it is essential to adopt an ecosystem perspective and encourage collaboration among diverse stakeholders. This approach establishes the foundation for research excellence, which enhances competitiveness and delivers societal benefits.

**Laure Le Bars (BDVA Vice-president), Edina Nemeth (National Contact Point, Horizon Europe, Digital & EIC), Ferenc Kása (Neumann Ltd. Professional Diplomat for AI & Data), András Benczúr (Head of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at SZTAKI) and Imre Hamar (Eötvös Loránd University Vice-Rector for International Affairs)** highlighted the importance of collaboration to support development, sharing knowledge, gathering industry professionals, business developers, researchers and policy makers to help advance policy actions and industrial and research activities in the areas of Data and AI.

**Yvo Volman (Director of the Data Directorate in the Directorate General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission)** offered a keynote speech, in which he underlined the importance of the data and AI community both for the past and future. He talked about the European Data Strategy, as it combines legislation and deployment to strengthen our data economy. Four and a half years later, **Yvo Volman** sees how the EU has made significant progress. Starting with legislation, the Data Governance Act, fully applicable since 2023, marked a milestone in enhancing trust in voluntary data-sharing. The act establishes trustworthy mechanisms to connect data supply and demand. Continuing with legislative measures, the Data Act, which came into force in January 2024 and will be fully applicable by 2025, aims to achieve fairness in allocating the value derived from data. The Data Act strikes a balance between making data available and protecting the interests of those investing in data-generating technologies, as it gives users of connected products much more control over the generated data.







**Yvo Volman** underlined how the AI Act has already influenced behaviours across various sectors, even ahead of full implementation. The last legislative measure, the Open Data Directive, focuses on high-value data sets. This directive emphasises that public information should be accessible to everyone, free of charge, fostering entrepreneurship, start-ups, and SMEs.

The European Data Strategy introduced key concepts: European data spaces, data infrastructures and governance in critical economic sectors and areas of public interest. These initiatives aim to facilitate trusted, secure data pooling and sharing. Some of these data spaces are already showing promising results, such as the health data-sharing space. To ensure cohesion across these data spaces, the Data Spaces Support Centre was established. It plays a crucial role in coordinating efforts, ensuring interoperability and leveraging economies of scale. Now, it is essential for stakeholders to continue developing this ecosystem, and so far, progress is on track.

**Yvo Volman** added that it is vital that data from these spaces supports the European AI industry, in areas such as the AI factories. He emphasised that the strong collaboration between BDVA and Adra will ensure a good synergy between data and AI. **He underlined the key role that BDVA had in the progress of the data and AI ecosystem.**

With this robust framework now in place, the next mandate should prioritise practical implementation. Rather than new legislation, the focus should be on supporting stakeholders and reinforcing the fundamentals of the data economy in each European country. **Yvo Volman** concluded with Europe's overall position: open yet assertive, ready to collaborate with global partners, provided that fundamental rights, European laws and values are respected.







**Frédéric Bellaiche (Vice president for Technology & Research at Dawex)**

offered a keynote speech called 'Leveraging Standards to Foster Trust and Interoperability in Data Spaces'. From the data economy to the economy led by data, where data spaces have become essential infrastructures for sharing and exchanging data, trust and interoperability are fundamental. Participants found out how leveraging standards and frameworks can foster trusted and seamless data exchanges across data ecosystems. A particular focus was put on key initiatives like the CEN Trusted Data Transaction pre-standardisation, DSSC Blueprint, Gaia-X de facto standard, and IDSA Data Space Protocol. Find out more here!

**Roberto González (Program Manager at NEC Laboratories Europe)**, offered a keynote speech focused on advancing information and communications through research excellence and open innovation, titled 'Using Generative AI agents in the real world'. He continued talking about the integration of Generative AI Agents, as well as Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI), referring to the information that organisations use to understand the cyber threats they are currently facing or might face in the future. Roberto González stated that collecting and retrieving CTI is difficult currently, and that NEC tries to offer a solution. Find out more here!

Two panels addressed the main theme of our event, European leadership in AI & Data, one offering a policy and research perspective, while the other focusing on the industry perspective. You can go through the two plenaries during the following pages.







## **EUROPE FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN AI & DATA – A POLICY AND RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE**

Ensuring Europe's leading role in AI and Data is a challenge that engages experts across various fields. In the panel moderated by **Edward Curry (Professor at Insight Centre)**, a number of policy and research professionals shared their views on the topic. The policy perspective was provided by **Cecile Huet (Head of Unit Excellence in Artificial Intelligence & Robotics at the European Commission)** and **Peter Szegedi (Policy Officer at the European Commission)**, while researchers' views were presented by **Andras Benczur (Head, Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at SZTAKI)**, **Elena Simperl (Professor of Computer at King's College London and the Director of Research for the Open Data Institute)** and **Sylvia Ilieva (Gate Institute Director)**.

During the opening remarks, **Edward Curry** explained that he believes that Europe can be globally competitive. Discussions on leveraging data and AI that would help boost European economy were already ongoing for some time and were refuelled along with the publication of Draghi's report. European regulations have an impact on the everyday life of EU citizens, but it is unclear whether these represent a challenge or an opportunity. Policy makers are actively creating a functioning innovation environment throughout Europe, offering individuals the chance to achieve professional successes, while having access to the best infrastructure available. Companies have the opportunity to conduct research and development activities, which later can be implemented in their businesses. Initiatives such as the AI Strategy are undertaken for the sake of boosting new industrial uses of AI. Another notable initiative is the European AI Research Council, meant for pooling available European resources and for exploration of their applicability.

**Cecile Huet** explained how the European ecosystem of excellence is already put in motion through a number of initiatives. Testing and Experimentation Facilities are boosting innovation both through technical, as much as legal support. European Digital Innovation Hubs participate in disseminating new technology and innovation with local partners.

The InvestEU and European Innovation Council provide financial support to SMEs and start-ups. As it was highlighted in European Commission's AI innovation package, currently the focus is on the application of AI and establishing a strong link between laboratories where the technology is developed and where the products and services are being introduced on the market. The AI Vertical Priorities from the Draghi Report, highlight Europe's high chances of winning the global competition. If we are to succeed, we need the engagement of strong research institutions. To achieve this, there are several requirements that must be met.

**Elena Simperl** stated that conducting research in AI requires high quality data sets. Preparing a data set for Machine Learning is time consuming and capital demanding. This problem can be partially addressed by documenting data sets through machine readable data cards for example, which would ensure the quality of high value data sets. Another issue is ensuring that researchers have access to the data. Even though legal provisions in the EU envision granting that access to researchers, it is a lengthy process and it should be more strictly enforced when companies are not meeting time limitations for providing those data sets. Europe should focus on identifying the most valuable data sets it possesses and should ensure a proper governance over them. Last but not least, during the generation of new data sets, special care should be given to ensuring the protection of existing rights of individuals in Europe. On a similar note, **Elena Simperl** mentioned that advancing AI technology requires experimentation facilities that have to be available across Europe to fully leverage the value arising from the diversity of Member States. This would also help retain talent within Europe.

Europe has competitive advantages that it should leverage instead of trying to catch up with global players in areas where it lacks them. According to **Cecile Huet**, the ten sectors identified in the Draghi report — such as energy, telecommunications, agriculture and aerospace — are the most promising. These strategic industries are already globally competitive and could benefit further from leveraging AI solutions. These areas have extensive access to data, with a value that is not maybe even fully exploited.



There are many promising European start-ups that could help with the extraction of the value from that data, should they be given access to it in a secure environment.

**Peter Szegedi** highlighted that European technology and tools have been applied across the globe. Destination Earth can serve as an example. It is a digital model of Earth used for monitoring and predicting natural phenomena, which is used worldwide. Europe's advantage is the richness of its data, which should be protected and at the same time made accessible for innovation and that is the purpose behind legislative acts such as the Open Data Directive, Data Act and Data Governance Act. Also, Data Space initiatives are very promising in this context.

**Andras Benczur** mentioned that the European advantage comes from the human-centric approach. The quality of health data sets comes from an inclusive European healthcare system. This human-centric approach should be leveraged, but in the current regulatory landscape, data holders might hesitate before sharing any data, worried about becoming non-compliant with legal provisions.

**Elena Simperl** noted that it is nice to talk about the human-centric approach during conferences, but theoretical considerations should be translated into practice. While access to unique data sets generates an advantage, it is hard to imagine that Europe will be able to keep global players forever bared from access to that data, therefore emphasis should be placed on conducting research in areas related to machine learning, where access to data is not the only way to win the race. She also provided a practical suggestion towards policy makers, stating that when envisioning funding for projects, it would be necessary to allocate sufficient funds to obtaining high quality data sets. Finally, while speaking about the quality of data sets, this aspect is very often reliant on the human labelling and that the rights of individuals engaged in that activity should be protected.







## **EUROPE FOR GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN AI & DATA – AN INDUSTRIAL PERSPECTIVE**

With the ongoing discussion about the role EU's role in the digitalisation process and with an open question of how to assure European competitiveness while respecting European values, which are the backbone of its identity, a group of experts presented their unique perspective on the European global leadership in AI and Data from an industrial perspective. The panel was moderated by **Valerio Frascolla (BDVA Vice president and Director of Research and Innovation at Intel)**, with **Naja von Schmude (Co-Founder at Peregrine.ai)**, **Zoltan Bodor-Toth (Head of Digital Platforms & Solutions and Business Development Manager at evosoft)**, **Zsigmond Varga (Head of Industry and Customer Advisory - CEE at SAP AG)**, **Patrick van der Smagt (Head of etami and Professor, ELTE University and Volkswagen Machine Learning Research Lab)** and **Andrejs Vasiljevs (Executive Chairman at Tilde)** as speakers.

The first question addressed to the panellists focussed on the requirements and needs of industry to shape a competitive, resilient and future-proof Europe. **Naja von Schmude**, a computer scientist and co-founder of a start-up, highlighted the pro prowess of European research, particularly in the context of AI. However, she pointed out that Europe's shortcoming lies in the slow adoption of new technologies in products and services. Research must be monetised through production as well. Regarding regulations, she noted that while they serve as useful guardrails, they can also be a burden for start-ups, which often lack the manpower to meet all the administrative documentation requirements. Her final point emphasised that companies need examples of good digital solutions implemented by public administration, an area in which many Member States are lagging.

Addressing the same question from the perspective of an SME, **Andrejs Vasiljevs** mentioned that the main challenge with any research lies in realising its application and value in a business environment. He emphasised that high-quality research does not necessarily guarantee market success.



On the topic of European competitiveness, **Andrejs Vasiljevs** highlighted that Europe's fragmentation and the diversity of its countries and languages are not weaknesses, but strengths. He drew an analogy to nature, where the most diverse ecosystems are the most thriving, resilient and rich. The key challenge is the creation of a robust innovation ecosystem within Europe, one that accommodates a variety of entities. Once established, this ecosystem will flourish. Initiatives such as Data Spaces and AI Factories are needed and warmly welcomed by professionals. However, clear implementation guidelines are required to explain how each actor can contribute to building the European ecosystem.

**Zoltan Bodor-Toth** highlighted the pivotal role of industrial companies in the European ecosystem. Some of these companies are shifting towards a more digital sphere. Their experience can be invaluable in building bridges between tech giants and companies in more traditional sectors.

**Patrick van der Smagt**, on a similar note, mentioned that bringing new technological solutions to SMEs and large companies still represents a challenge in Europe, which needs to be addressed. In line with the statements of previous panellists, he emphasised the long path between research and implementation of new solutions in products and services.

**Zsigmond Varga**, representing a large company, stressed the problems of operating in Europe, which prove to be very challenging, due to regulations which do not have an equivalent in other jurisdictions. Developing a technology is not an issue, but applying it in real life scenarios, where the technology must provide responsible, reliable and relevant results is a challenge. Applying AI requires experimentation and the European regulatory environment is not good for testing.

When referring to the challenges of bringing new data and AI technologies to the European market, **Patrick van der Smagt** put into question a common view of the superiority of European research. The reason for that was that for the past few years we were faced with an outflow of talented individuals, as in other regions they could find better paid jobs and better infrastructure for work. It is a dangerous situation, as it might lead to societal losses due to technologies being discovered and refined no longer at universities, but inside big tech companies. A solution to the regulatory burdens imposed on companies in Europe could be sandboxes, where they could find assistance and space needed to face challenging regulatory environment.

**Andrejs Vasiljevs** has high hopes for the AI Factories initiative. Companies in Europe need access to computing resources in order to compete with global players. At the same time, these European companies cannot win the race against global players in the field of generic solutions. Instead, they need to find a niche where they can leverage their access to industry- or sector-specific data.

Other panellists stated that to have success in the global digitalised world, three things are essential: people, technology and processes. While Europe has access to talented individuals, it must focus on retaining them, which can be achieved through close cooperation between universities and companies. Regarding technology, Europe is overly dependent on US solutions and datasets. Data protection is important, but a balance must be struck to allow for the training of AI models. Lastly, regulations are necessary, but they are already driving talent away from Europe. For start-ups, in particular, it is impossible to allocate additional resources solely for regulatory compliance. Associations have the potential to address some of these challenges. These can facilitate cross-border activities, helping to mitigate issues stemming from the fragmentation of the Single Market. Associations can also support the establishment of collaborations between individuals and companies. Finally, these can assist companies, especially start-ups, in navigating the constantly evolving regulatory landscape.





## EBDVF DAY 3

The plenaries started with a big announcement related to the location of EBDVF 2025, which is set to take place in Denmark. We continued with presentations spanning data and AI topics, from different players.

**Mihalis Kefalogiannis (Head of IT Innovation Center at OTE Group)**, gave a keynote speech titled "AI in Telecoms: The Data Challenge", reflecting that Generative AI (GenAI) is rapidly becoming a game-changer in the telecommunications industry. By creating content and generating insights autonomously, GenAI helps telecom companies improve customer experiences, optimise network operations, and streamline business processes. However, the key to maximising the potential of Generative AI lies in overcoming the data challenge – dealing with the massive volume, variety, and quality of data needed to fuel AI models, while also addressing ethics, privacy and security.

**Timon Brussaard (Novatrust founding partner)** presented "Let's build Data Spaces together!", during which he showcased the company's support of the data spaces ecosystem, with a strong focus on sustainable business models and governance, as it is creating semantical standards for domain-specific solutions. He underlined how Novatrust is the one-stop shop for data spaces, offering collaboration opportunities with leading technology providers and research partners.

**Savvas Rogotis (BDVA Data Ecosystem Senior Project Manager)** and Eimear Farrell (European Commission - Joint Research Centre Scientific expert) introduced us to the latest developments in "GenAI and Data Spaces". They presented the latest publication of Data Spaces Support Centre with the same title, which was built on hypothesis that the combination of GenAI and data spaces holds significant transformative potential. Acknowledging the symbiotic collaboration, the focus is primarily placed on the data spaces support to GenAI, as GenAI offers big opportunities for European business and innovation.

The speakers also covered the specific case study of AI Factories, as an illustrative scenario, cross-cutting between data-computing-GenAI, where aspects and learnings from the whitepaper can be applied. AI Factories are open ecosystems formed around European public supercomputers, bringing together key material and human resources needed for development of GenAI. [Go through the publication now!](#)

**Matthijs Punter (TNO researcher and consultant)**, presented "[The blueprint for data spaces – DSSC blueprint v1.5](#)", an updated version for which BDVA has contributed significantly. [The Data Spaces Support Centre Blueprint is a consistent and comprehensive set of guidelines to support the development cycle of data spaces.](#) It includes the conceptual model of a data space, data space building blocks and recommended standards and specifications. It is dedicated to designing new data spaces, evaluating existing ones and supporting the ongoing evolution of these data spaces. [Find out more here!](#)

EBDVF 2024 concluded with a very interesting panel, "[Expanding data-driven ecosystems across sectors and global value chains](#)", which you can discover in the next 3 pages.





## **EXPANDING DATA-DRIVEN ECOSYSTEMS ACROSS SECTORS AND GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS**

The final plenary panel of EBDVF 2024 gathered speakers **Edward Curry (Professor at Insight Centre)**, **Thomas Hahn (BDVA President and Chief Expert Software at Siemens)**, **Ulrich Ahle (CEO of Gaia-X)**, **Gábor Érdi-Krausz (Project Coordinator at SZTAKI – Institute for Computer Science and Control)** and **Julien Adelberger (Senior Project Coordinator at International Data Spaces Association)**, alongside panel moderator **Nuria De Lama (Consulting Director at IDC)**, as they went through the event's key points.

**Edward Curry** addressed the role of data spaces in ensuring the competitiveness of European industry. He emphasised that this question is pivotal for the discussions that have been ongoing for many years. Setting up a data space is not a challenge. The real difficulty lies in extracting value from it. Therefore, the focus must be placed on leveraging data spaces to help users address their actual needs. The mere access to data is insufficient, as value must still be extracted from the data.

According to **Thomas Hahn**, there are many data spaces being established all around Europe. As an industry representative, he mentioned that different companies have a shared interest in this direction. There are three goals that those companies want to achieve: sustainability, resilience and competitiveness. Data spaces can help them by increasing the resilience of the supply chains which are volatile, which was proven during the pandemic or during the blockage of Suez Canal. In terms of sustainability, batteries serve as a good example, where through data transparency, up to 94% of the battery can be recycled. Last but not least, data spaces can help companies with scalability, therefore increasing their competitiveness in Europe and globally.

**Ulrich Ahle** spoke about the role of his initiative in the European data ecosystem. While some digital platforms connecting data providers with data users existed for many years, they lacked the ability to automatically connect participants. Data spaces achieve this through standardisation, interoperability and the trust framework. Gaia-X supports the ability of data spaces to automatically identify and authorise the participant, who can be for example a natural person, an IT system, an organisation or a single sensor. It has a direct effect in the real world. An example from the agricultural sector was shared, where the usage of satellite data could provide information about the growth of the crop in the field, supporting the decision over fertiliser usage in precisely-determined areas. Gaia-X also supports participants of a specific data space in connecting with different ones, through minimal interoperability credentials.

**Julien Adelberger** highlighted the high level of responsiveness of the data spaces to external shocks and customer demands, which in his view gives them a competitive advantage. This responsiveness comes from the fact that data spaces are based on trust and allow easy access to other data spaces, as it was mentioned by **Ulrich Ahle**. IDSA is supporting data spaces by providing technical interoperability. The company works on the data space protocol, which is meant to become an internationally recognised standard for negotiating the process of data exchange.

**Gábor Érdi-Krausz** explained the strong involvement of SZTAKI in establishing the Hungarian data ecosystem. He believes that data spaces will create many opportunities in fields such as manufacturing, eventually supporting the European competitiveness.

The panel debated afterwards over the contribution of data spaces to competitiveness, where speakers agreed that effective data management and enhanced data ecosystems, especially in the context of AI, will boost the European ecosystem.

**Edward Curry** stated that he thinks that AI will soon become a commodity, therefore not granting any competitive advantage. Anyone can get access to world-class models. Therefore, the competitive advantage will come from using specific datasets. Data spaces will help ensure the quality of the used data through better management practices, allowing the exploitation of AI commodity technology.

Covering the global perspective on the data ecosystems, **Thomas Hahn** mentioned that European companies generate profits not only inside Europe, but also outside of it, therefore the industry can't focus only internally, having to be as well outside-oriented. In some fields, the global supply chain is necessary, such as in the case of batteries that require rare earths. Therefore, companies are participating in international undertakings with participants from all around the globe.

**Julien Adelberger** pointed out that in healthcare or operating nuclear power stations, it is crucial to have full control over data storage and associated operations. In other cases, global supply chains already exist and data management practices should reflect them, such as the automotive industry or manufacturing. While the setting up of data spaces takes place momentarily in Europe, in the future other countries could adopt them in order to build a seamless digital support of global business processes.

At the very end of the panel, the speakers did agree that currently the focus should be placed on the consolidation and implementation of various available initiatives across Europe. That will happen eventually, though there was no agreement over the time frame.

While some panellists believed that in five years data spaces will become part of our daily lives, **Edward Curry** believes that setting up a European public data infrastructure will require more time, as it depends on societal changes.









**THOMAS HAHN**  
Chief Expert Software

SIEMENS AG



**ANDREJS VASIĻJEVS**  
Executive Chairman

TILDE



**ANA GARCÍA ROBLES**  
Secretary General

BDVA



**EDWARD CURRY**  
Professor

INSIGHT CENTRE



**ELENA SIMPERL**  
Professor of computer science

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON



**IRENE LÓPEZ DE VALLEJO**  
Head of EU Affairs

CTIC TECHNOLOGY CENTRE



**LAURE LE BARS**  
Research project Director

SAP



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**MARTIN KALTENBOECK**

SEMANTIC WEB COMPANY



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**SYLVIA ILIEVA**  
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**ULRICH MEINOLF AHLE**  
CEO

GAIA-X AISBL



**YVO VOLMAN**  
Director of Data - DG CONNECT

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**MATTHIJS PUNTER**  
Researcher & Consultant

TNO



**PATRICK VAN DER SMAGT**  
Head of etami, Professor for ML and Robotics

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**ZSIGMOND VARGA**

Head of Industry and  
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SAP AG



**ZOLTAN BODOR-TÓTH**

Head of Digital Platforms &  
Solutions and Business  
Development Man..

EVOSOFT



**ROLAND JAKAB**

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EÖTVÖS LORÁND UNIVERSITY





**MIHALIS KEFALOGIANNIS**  
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OTE GROUP



**TIMON BRUSSAARD**  
Founding partner

NOVATRUST

[Click here for  
the full list of  
speakers](#)



### **Synthetic Data in Healthcare**

2 October 2024

11:30 – 13:00; Room Black

Fantastic session everyone! Kudos to all of you – it was an interactive, engaging and thought-provoking session!

#### Benefits of synthetic data:

- Cost effectiveness,
- Flexibility in an all-encompassing way
- Making complex medical data from different sources available and accessible in a timely manner
- Enhancement of research especially in rare diseases fast tracking the results by many years in some cases.

#### Challenges and potential solutions

- Innovation going faster than regulation – take a step back in innovation when needed for regulatory compliance/acceptability. Collaboration among industry, academia and regulatory bodies is the need of the hour. European subsidy programs like IHI, regulatory sandboxes etc. can be the much needed collaboration playgrounds.
- Access to quality seed data – federated infrastructure opening up multiple diverse sources can be a solution
- Synthetic data evaluation and validation in a clinical/real world setting – establishing trustworthiness. After due diligence, some hospitals have accepted synthetic data in the clinical trial process. These can be good examples for others in terms of trustworthiness.
- Re-identification possibility – trade-off between utility and privacy
- Lack of benchmarking
- Governance
- Lack of alignment among different stakeholders – e.g. difference in views and priorities between a developer and a privacy officer. Specialization like Responsible AI can bridge such gaps.
- Seed data bias. Knowledge infusion in the synthetic data generation can solve such issues.



**Saurav Baidya**  
**(PHILIPS)**

We wanted to extend our thanks for the time and support you provided in our HealthData4EU and DataNexus clusters preparation for EBDVF, helping us make the most of this event.

Our experience at EBDVF has been incredibly positive, with the clusters coming together to make significant strides in collaboration and knowledge-sharing. We are confident that these connections will continue to develop, driving impactful results within our shared fields.

We know that some of our members are also part of BDVA task forces, so we're sure our paths will cross again. If not beforehand, we certainly look forward to reconnecting at EBDVF 2025.



**Arantxa Echarte**  
**(EXA4MIND & SYNTHEMA)**

### **Improving Data Maturity of Manufacturing SMEs**

2 October 2024

11:30 – 13:00; Room Silver

Our session was centered on Manufacturing SMEs and their transition towards data driven operations. Manufacturing SMEs are increasingly implementing Industry 4.0 principles in their production sites, but they are still not fully aware of the huge potential that digital technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Data Spaces, and Digital Twins could bring to their business processes. While awareness in the manufacturing industry is growing, widespread adoption remains a challenge especially for SMEs. As technology costs decrease and support initiatives increase, it is expected to see a significant rise in AI, Data Spaces and Digital Twin adoption in the coming years where early adopters will gain a competitive edge, while those who lag behind, risk falling further behind. Challenges related to investments, expertise, and integration do persist but finally, local and regional innovation policies (think globally, act locally) allow an organic growth of both technology providers and technology users, enabling them to adopt open, interoperable and standard Data and AI solutions. Overcoming these hurdles will be crucial for widespread adoption of Data Spaces, AI and Digital Twins Technologies in the manufacturing sector.



**Davide Dalle Carbonare (ENGINEERING INGEGNERIA INFORMATICA SPA)**

### **Accelerating smart farming digital transformation via big satellite data**

2 October 2024

9:15 – 9:45; Room White

Thanks for the opportunity. Here are my takeaways:

- Surprising power of convocation of people having different profiles
- Receiving feedback from attendees allowed us to know we are in the good direction although new challenges to be covered.
- Farmers trust will be obtained by involving them in the development of the projects buy avoiding restarting projects from scratch all the times.
- Sharing the ideas with similar projects boost the generation of new innovative and research ideas.



**Francisco José Lacueva (INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE ARAGÓN)**



**The role of Manufacturing Data Spaces in the implementation of Digital Product Passports**

3 October 2024

15:30 – 16:30; Room Black

Takeaways:

- One sponsoring project (Circular TwAIn) but different perspectives (DACAPO CIRPASS-2)
- One Horizon Europe RIA (low TRL DACAPO), one Horizon Europe IA (medium TRL Circular TwAIn), one Digital Europe Deployment Action (high TRL CIRPASS-2)
- Different stages in Product Life cycle: Design for Circularity / Sustainability, De- and Re-manufacturing, End of Life and Digital Product Passport
- Conceptual evolution from Data Spaces, to Data Spaces for Manufacturing, to Data Spaces for Circular Manufacturing, to joint B2B as well as Governmental and Consumers Data Spaces
- Frank and constructive discussion where all the projects presented their viewpoint and learn from each other
- To be absolutely continued also taking into account the continuous evolution of technical, business, organisational and regulatory landscape around Circular Manufacturing Data Spaces and Digital Product Passports



**Sergio Gusmeroli**  
**(POLITECNICO DI MILANO)**

Having actively participated in past events, we have seen the value in engaging with the community. We noticed the agenda is still being finalised, so we kindly ask to be informed once it is outlined. This will allow us to assess and prepare relevant content to share from our work.

Following the EBDVF conference, we conducted an internal review of our participation and would like to share some constructive feedback with you:

- Overall Value: We find UPCAST's involvement valuable, providing a platform to connect with a diverse range of stakeholders and strengthening our efforts in community building and collaboration.
- Panel Setup: We have observed positive developments in the structure of panel discussions over recent years, which have helped our ability to share meaningful content. We also appreciate the support and guidance from BDVA colleagues in terms of feedback, content refinement, and their valuable role in moderating sessions.



**Nevena Raczko**  
**(UPCAST)**

EUROPEAN  
**BIGDATA  
VALUE** FORUM  
2-4 OCT | BUDAPEST - HUNGARY

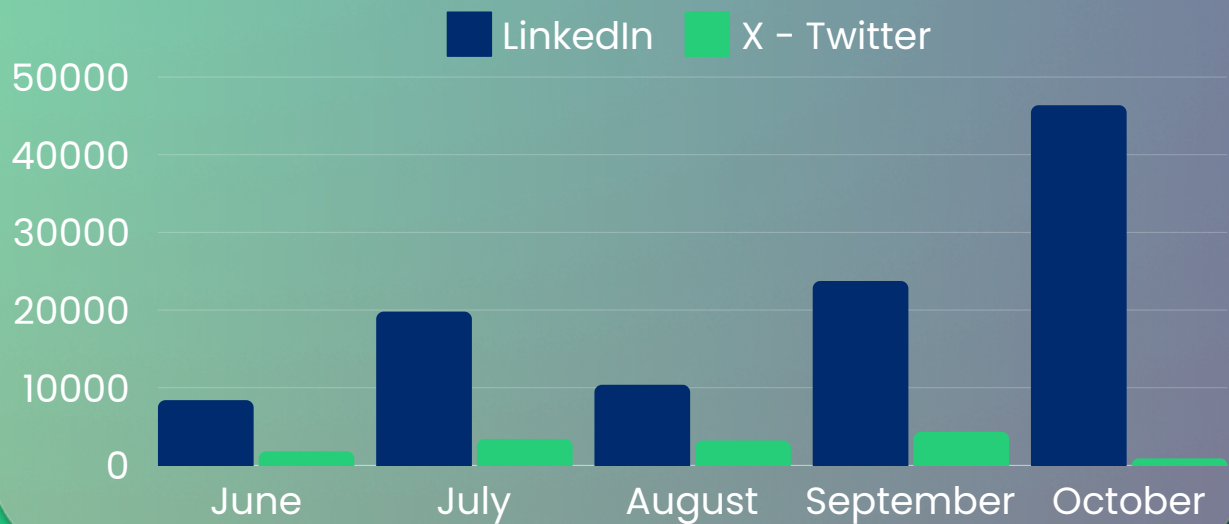
**The official EBDVF 2024 event app offered:**

- All the updated information in one place
- Notifications about the sessions & discussions during the event
- Creating a personalised EBDVF 2024 programme
- Better orientation at the venue
- Opportunities for active participation

**EBDVF 2024 app link:**



## Social Media Impressions on LinkedIn & X



### LinkedIn

**210 new LinkedIn followers in 30 days**

**New followers in the last 30 days: Belgium, Spain, Greece, France and Netherlands**

### Over 100 new LinkedIn followers in 3 days





## The EBDVF 2024 Communication campaign

- **100.000 LinkedIn impressions**
- **11.000 Twitter impressions**
- **16.000 Website impressions**

### EBDVF Website data

**Unique users: 3400**

**Views: almost 17.000**

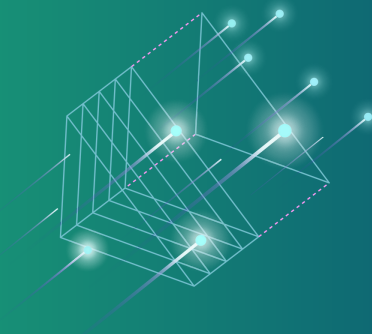
EBDVF's website had almost 17.000 views (almost double compared to the 9600 views for EBDVF 2023) and attracted over 3400 users. BDVA newsletters covered the event throughout the year, supplying fresh content to participants. EBDVF also benefitted from exposure through the promotion related to [Tech Days Hungary](#).





EUROPEAN  
**BIG DATA  
VALUE** FORUM  
2-4 OCT | BUDAPEST - HUNGARY

The European Big Data Value Forum (EBDVF) is the flagship event of the European Big Data Value and Data-Driven AI Research and Innovation community organised by the Big Data Value Association, local partners and the European Commission (DG CNECT).



**BDV** BIG DATA VALUE  
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