Defining & measuring trust in data transactions

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The European Commission and leading global organisations are currently defining what a Trusted Data Transaction is, to ultimately establish a standard from the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

The **CEN workshop on Trusted Data Transaction** is a pre-standardisation contribution-based initiative co-proposed in 2023 by **Dawex, Fraunhofer ISST** and **TNO**, gathering active representatives from the **European Commission, Gaia-X, IDSA, BDVA, Fiware Foundation, Microsoft, Agdatahub, Hub One, SQS, Connekt**, and recently joined by **Airbus** and **EDF** for part two of the workshop.
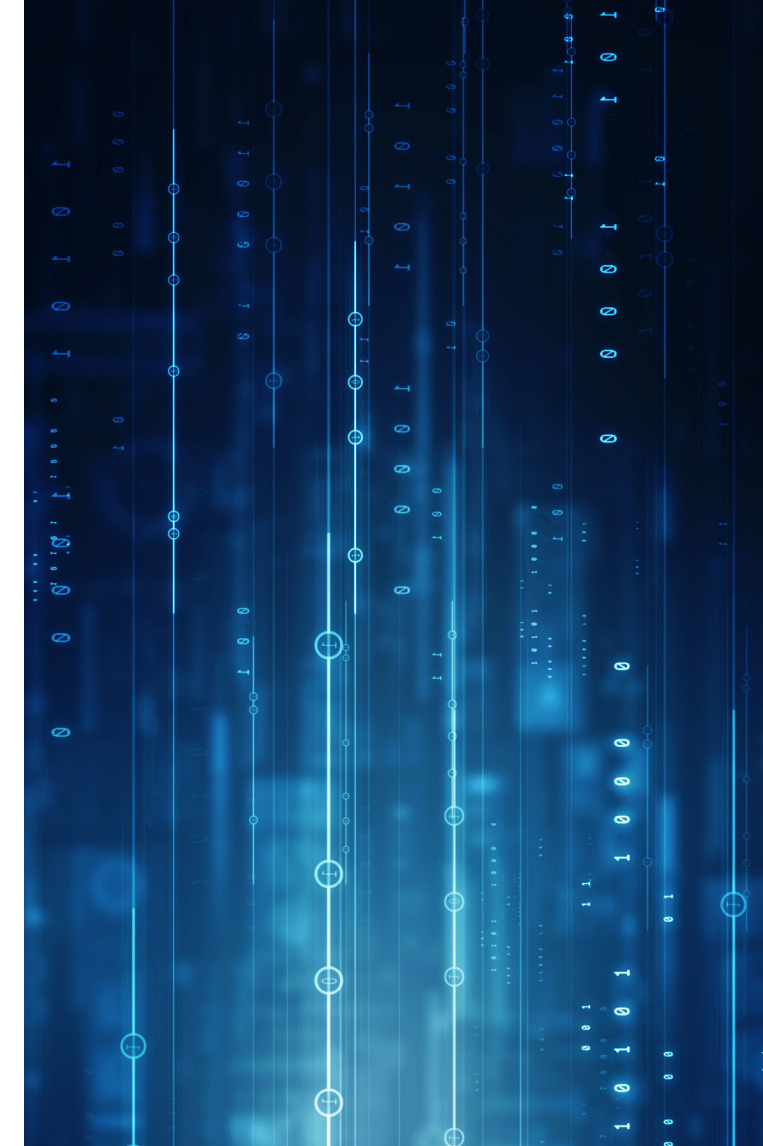
During a 15 month process, workshop participants, coming from the associative, corporate and institutional world, **collectively created, agreed upon** and **signed the first CWA** on **Trusted Data Transaction** (CEN Workshop Agreement- Part 1). Published in the summer 2024, the Agreement defines the objectives, scope and deliverables of the workshop, provides **terminology**, key **concepts** and **mechanisms** around the **notion of trusted data transaction**. This is a crucial step as it sets the foundation for defining the characteristics of trust in a data transaction and the criteria to measure it.

Why is this initiative on Trusted Data Transaction important?

- It directly contributes to the building of the **European Trusted Data Framework**, one of the top three policy priorities, out of 72 actions listed, in the 2024 annual Union work programme for European standardisa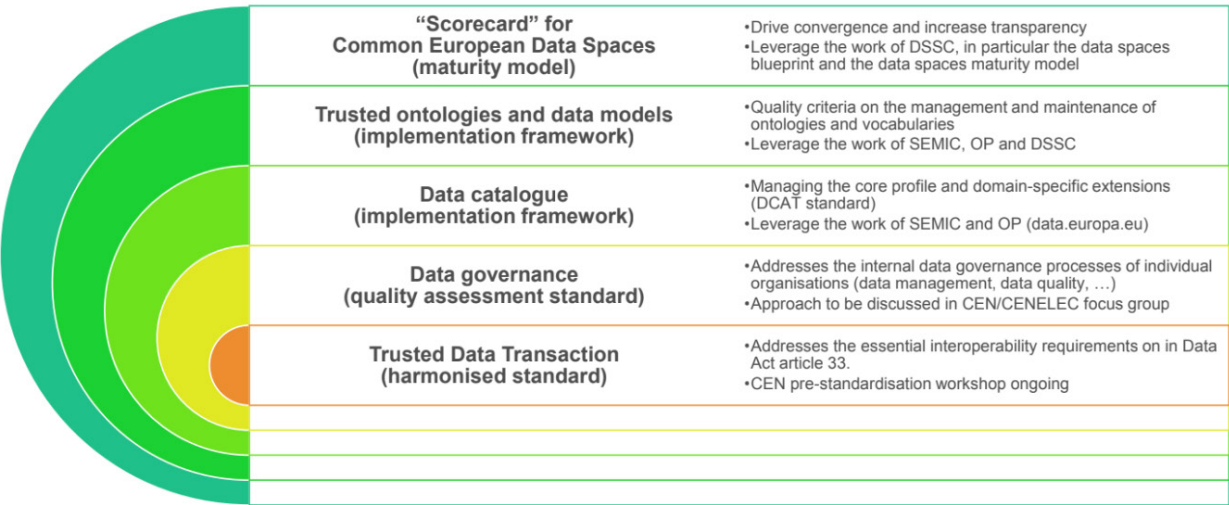tion. The EU Trusted Data Framework encompasses a comprehensive set of standards, practices, and rules to ensure trusted, legally compliant data sharing across parties, including Data Intermediaries and altruism organisations.

- It provides a concrete response to the recommendation made by the High-Level Forum on European standardisation, a multi-stakeholder group chaired by former Commissioner Thierry Breton, to initiate the development of a harmonised European standard for trusted data transactions.

- It aligns with key provisions of the Data Act, which stipulates that the European Commission shall request one or more European standardisation organisations to

Standardisation request
European Trusted Data Framework

Includes the following 5 standards / standardisation deliverables:

Deliverable	Details
"Scorecard" for Common European Data Spaces (maturity model)	• Drive convergence and increase transparency • Leverage the work of DSSC, in particular the data spaces blueprint and the data spaces maturity model
Trusted ontologies and data models (implementation framework)	• Quality criteria on the management and maintenance of ontologies and vocabularies • Leverage the work of SEMIC, OP and DSSC
Data catalogue (implementation framework)	• Managing the core profile and domain-specific extensions (DCAT standard) • Leverage the work of SEMIC and OP (data.europa.eu)
Data governance (quality assessment standard)	• Addresses the internal data governance processes of individual organisations (data management, data quality, …) • Approach to be discussed in CEN/CENELEC focus group
Trusted Data Transaction (harmonised standard)	• Addresses the essential interoperability requirements on in Data Act article 33. • CEN pre-standardisation workshop ongoing

European Commission

draft harmonised standards that satisfy the essential requirements laid down in Article 33 of the Data Act. These requirements address the interoperability of data, data sharing mechanisms and services, as well as of common European data spaces. Participants in data spaces offering data or data services, such as data intermediaries, that meet these harmonised standards shall be presumed to be in conformity with these essential requirements.

The CEN Workshop on Trusted Data Transaction will accelerate and prepare for such standards and facilitate compliance of data space participants. The CWA on Trusted Data Transaction will be used as the main input to support the **Standardisation Request on Trusted Data Transaction**, issued by the European Commission, currently in the drafting phase, that will lead to a **harmonised European Standard**.

This marks an **important milestone** in the ongoing efforts towards **standardisation in Data Exchange, creating trust and observability** for Data Transactions.

Discussions for part 2 of the Workshop focused on the definition of the characteristics of trust in a data transaction and the criteria to measure it, have already well-progressed, with more organisations joining, demonstrating the importance of the topics being discussed. Results are expected at the end of 2024.

Standardisation is crucial. Without standards, no business can operate, and no products or services can be sold or used at scale. In a highly digitised and connected world, standardising trusted data transactions has become a necessity.

Access the CEN Workshop Agreement on Trusted Data Transaction Part 1

https://www.cencenelec.eu/news-and-events/news/2024/eninthespotlight/2024-07-26-trusted-data-transaction

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