# Public consultation on the Data Act

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

#### Introduction

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the essential role of data use for crisis management and prevention, and for informed decision-making by governments. Data also has a key place in the recovery of the EU, given its potential for innovation and job creation, as well as its contribution to the efficiency of industries across all sectors. Data will also contribute to achieving the goals of the European Green Deal.

With its <u>European strategy for data</u>, published on 19 February 2020, the Commission formulated a vision for the data economy. This includes the adoption of a horizontal legislative initiative (the 'Data Act') that would complement the <u>proposal for a Regulation on data governance</u>, which was adopted by the Commission in November 2020.

The objective of the Data Act is to propose measures to create a fair data economy by ensuring access to and use of data, including in business-to-business and business-to-government situations. The initiative would not alter data protection legislation and would seek to preserve incentives in data generation.

Under this initiative, a review of Directive 96/9/EC on the legal protection of databases is also planned in order to ensure continued relevance for the data economy.

This questionnaire aims at consulting all types of stakeholders, including citizens and businesses, about the different measures being explored in preparing the Data Act. It is divided into the following sections:

- I. Business-to-government data sharing for the public interest
- II. Business-to-business data sharing
- III. Tools for data sharing: smart contracts
- IV. Clarifying rights on non-personal Internet-of-Things data stemming from professional use
- V. Improving portability for business users of cloud services
- VI. Complementing the portability right under Article 20 GDPR
- VII. Intellectual Property Rights Protection of Databases
- VIII. Safeguards for non-personal data in international contexts

After the mandatory 'about you' section, please answer the sections that are of interest to you. Please note that, although they all appear in the PDF questionnaire, some questions and the entire section on 'safeguards for non-personal data in international contexts' will only appear in the online questionnaire

for respondents that indicated they are responding as a company/business organisation or as a business association.

The questionnaire will be available in all EU official languages on 11 June 2021.

Finally, please note that you can upload a document (e.g. position paper) at the end of the questionnaire.

#### About you

Bulgarian

Croatian

Czech

Danish

Dutch

English

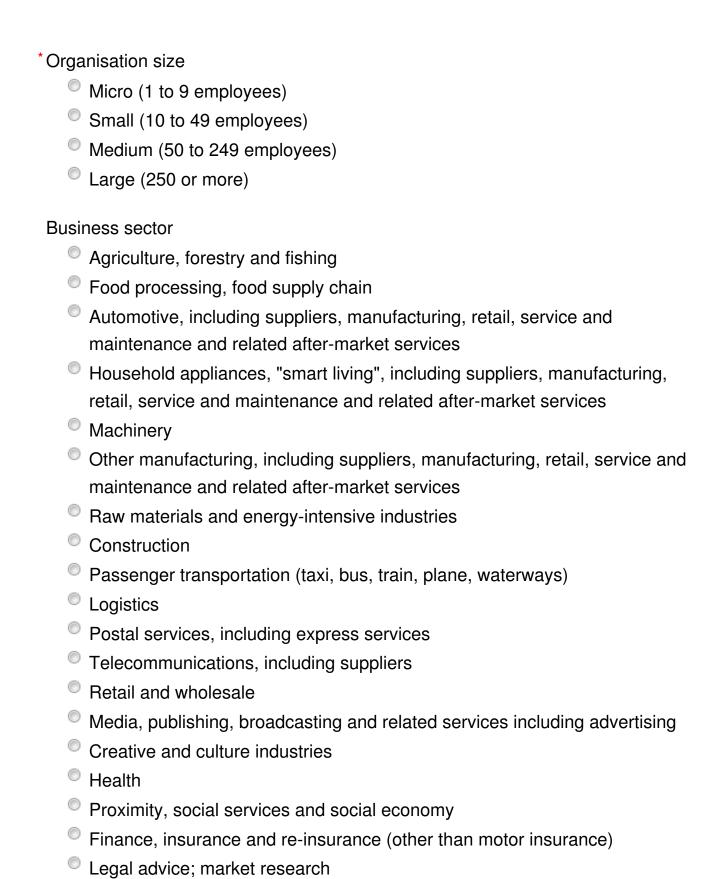
Finnish

Estonian

\*Language of my contribution

French German Greek Hungarian Irish Italian Latvian Lithuanian Maltese Polish Portuguese Romanian Slovak Slovenian Spanish Swedish \*I am giving my contribution as Academic/research institution Business association Company/business organisation Consumer organisation EU citizen

Environmental organisation
Non-EU citizen
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
Public authority
Trade union
Other
*First name
*Surname
*Email (this won't be published)
*Scope
International
Local
National
Regional
*Level of governance
Local Authority
Cocal Agency
*Level of governance
Parliament
Authority
Agency
*Organisation name
255 character(s) maximum



Tourism

air, including related data services

□ IT

Textile

Space and defense

Production and/or transmission/supply of electricity, gas, water, steam and

Other

# Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the <u>transparency register</u>. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

*Country of origin			
	rigin, or that of your organisati		
Afghanistan	Djibouti	Libya	Saint Martin
Aland Islands	Dominica	Liechtenstein	Saint Pierre and Miquelon
Albania	Dominican	Lithuania	Saint Vincent
	Republic		and the
			Grenadines
Algeria	Ecuador	Luxembourg	Samoa
American	Egypt	Macau	San Marino
Samoa			
Andorra	El Salvador	Madagascar	São Tomé and
			Príncipe
Angola	Equatorial	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
	Guinea		
Anguilla	Eritrea	Malaysia	Senegal
Antarctica	Estonia	Maldives	Serbia
Antigua and	Eswatini	Mali	Seychelles
Barbuda			-
Argentina	Ethiopia	Malta	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Falkland Islands	Marshall	Singapore
		Islands	
Aruba	Faroe Islands	Martinique	Sint Maarten
Australia	Fiji	Mauritania	Slovakia
Austria	Finland	Mauritius	Slovenia
Azerbaijan	France	Mayotte	Solomon
•		•	Islands
Bahamas	French Guiana	Mexico	Somalia

Bahrain	French Polynesia	Micronesia	South Africa
Bangladesh	French Southern and Antarctic Lands	Moldova	<ul><li>South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands</li></ul>
Barbados	Gabon	Monaco	South Korea
Belarus	Georgia	Mongolia	South Sudan
Belgium	Germany	Montenegro	Spain
Belize	Ghana	Montserrat	Sri Lanka
Benin	Gibraltar	Morocco	Sudan
Bermuda	Greece	Mozambique	Suriname
Bhutan	Greenland	Myanmar	Svalbard and
		/Burma	Jan Mayen
Bolivia	Grenada	Namibia	Sweden
Bonaire Saint	Guadeloupe	Nauru	Switzerland
Eustatius and			
Saba			
Bosnia and	Guam	Nepal	Syria
Herzegovina			<u> </u>
Botswana	Guatemala	Netherlands	Taiwan
Bouvet Island	Guernsey	New Caledonia	Tajikistan
Brazil	Guinea	New Zealand	Tanzania
British Indian	Guinea-Bissau	Nicaragua	Thailand
Ocean Territory		(i)	( TI ( ) I :
British Virgin	Guyana	Niger	The Gambia
Islands	O Hoiti	Nigorio	Timer Leate
Brunei	Haiti	<ul><li>Nigeria</li><li>Niue</li></ul>	Timor-Leste
Bulgaria	Heard Island and McDonald	Niue	Togo
	Islands		
Burkina Faso	<ul><li>Honduras</li></ul>	Norfolk Island	Tokelau
Burundi	<ul><li>Hong Kong</li></ul>	Northern	Tonga
Baranai	riong rong	Mariana Islands	•

	Tobago
Cameroon Iceland North Macedonia	Tunisia
Canada India Norway	Turkey
Cape Verde Indonesia Oman	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands Iran Pakistan	Turks and
	Caicos Islands
Central African Iraq Palau Republic	Tuvalu
Chad Ireland Palestine	Uganda
Chile Isle of Man Panama	Ukraine
China Israel Papua New	United Arab
Guinea	Emirates
Christmas Italy Paraguay	United
Island	Kingdom
Clipperton Jamaica Peru	United States
Cocos (Keeling) Japan Philippines	United States
Islands	Minor Outlying
	Islands
Colombia Jersey Pitcairn Islands	Uruguay
Comoros Jordan Poland	US Virgin
	Islands
Congo Kazakhstan Portugal	Uzbekistan
Cook Islands Kenya Puerto Rico	Vanuatu
Costa Rica Kiribati Qatar	Vatican City
Côte d'Ivoire Kosovo Réunion	Venezuela
Croatia Kuwait Romania	Vietnam
Cuba Kyrgyzstan Russia	Wallis and
	Futuna
Curaçao Laos Rwanda	Western
	Sahara
Cyprus Latvia Saint	Yemen
Barthélemy	

Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena	Zambia
		Ascension and	
		Tristan da	
		Cunha	
Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and	Zimbabwe
Republic of the		Nevis	
Congo			
Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

#### Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

# Anonymous

The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself.

# Public

Your name, the type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, your country of origin and your contribution will be published.

### \*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

# Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

# Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

### I. Business-to-government data sharing for the public interest

Access to private sector data can provide public authorities in the EU with valuable insights, for example to improve public transport, make cities greener, tackle epidemics and develop more evidence-based policies. To facilitate such data sharing, the European strategy for data announced that one of the objectives of the Data Act would be to create a framework to bring certainty to business-to-government (B2G) data sharing for the public interest and help overcome the related barriers.

In this context, 'public interest' is understood as general benefits to society as a whole – like effective responses to disasters or crises and improvements to public services – as recognised in law, at EU or Member State level. Some key examples are provided in the question "In which of the following areas do you think that, for specific use-cases with a clear public interest, B2G data sharing should be compulsory, with appropriate safeguards?"

This framework could set the objectives, general obligations and safeguards that should be put in place for B2G data sharing.

An <u>Expert Group on B2G data sharing</u>, whose <u>report</u> was published in February 2020, issued a number of recommendations in order to ensure scalable, responsible and sustainable B2G data sharing for the public interest. In addition to the recommendation to the Commission to explore a legal framework in this area, it presented several ways to encourage private companies to share their data. These include both monetary and non-monetary incentives, for example tax incentives, investment of public funds to support the development of trusted technical tools and recognition schemes for data sharing.

In this section, we would like to hear your views on how the Commission should foster B2G data sharing for public interest purposes.

Have you or has your organisation experienced difficulties/encountered issues when requesting or responding to requests for access to data, in the context of B2G data sharing for the public interest?

O No

I don't know / no opinion

#### Please specify

2	200 character(s) maximum	

Should the EU take additional action so that public sector bodies can access and re-use private sector data, when this data is needed for them to carry out their tasks in the public interest purpose?

- EU level action is needed
- Action at Member State level only is needed
- No action is needed
- I don't know / no opinion

To what extent do you believe that the following factors impede B2G data sharing for the public interest in the EU?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know /no opinion
Legal uncertainty due to different rules across Member States	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legal barriers to the use of business data for the public interest (e.g. on what data can be shared, in what form, conditions for re-use), including competition rules	©	©	©	©	©	•
Commercial disincentives or lack of incentives/ interest/ willingness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of skilled professionals (public and/ or private sector)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of bodies to help bring together supply and demand for data, and to promote, support and oversee B2G data sharing (e.g. provide best practice, legal advice)	•	•	•	•	•	0

Lack of safeguards ensuring that the data will be used only for the public interest purpose for which it was requested	•	•	0	•	•	0
Lack of appropriate infrastructures and cost of providing or processing such data (e. g. interoperability issues)	•	•	0	•	•	0
Lack of awareness (benefits, datasets available)	0	0	0	0	•	0
Insufficient quality of public authorities' privacy and data protection tools	0	0	0	0	•	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

PΙ	ease sp	ecify				

In which of the following areas do you think that, for specific use-cases with a clear public interest, B2G data sharing should be compulsory, with appropriate safeguards?

	Yes, it should be compulsory	No, it should not be compulsory	I don't know /no opinion
Data (e.g. mobility data from Telecom operators, loss data from insurance companies) for emergencies and crisis management, prevention and resilience	©	0	•
Data (e.g. price data from supermarkets) for official statistics	0	0	0
Data (e.g. emissions data from manufacturing plants) for protecting the environment	0	0	0
Data (e.g. fuel consumption data from transport operators) for a healthier society	©	0	0
Data for better public education services	©	©	0
Data (e.g. employment data from companies) for a socially inclusive society	0	0	0

Data for evidence-based public service delivery and policy- making	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Please specify			
200 character(s) maximum			
When sharing data with public bodies, businesses s	hould provid	le it:	
For free			
At a preferential rate/ below market price (marg	ginal cost or	other)	
At market price			
Depending on the purpose it may be provided	at market pr	ice, prefere	ential
rate or for free			
I don't know/ no opinion			
Places provide an example(s) of when public coster	hadiaa ahau	ıld ba abla	to
Please provide an example(s) of when public sector obtain data for the public interest at a preferential ra		aid be able	10
botain data for the public interest at a preferential ra-			
What safeguards for B2G data sharing would be app	oropriate?		
Data security measures including protection of information	commercial	lly sensitive	)
Specific rules on proportionality and reasonable	eness of the	request	
Transparent reporting on how the public author	rity has used	d the data	
Limitations regarding how long public bodies m datasets before having to destroy them	nay use or st	tore specifi	С
Other			
Please specify			
200 character(s) maximum			

Which of the following types of financial compensation would incentivise you to engage in a B2G data-sharing collaboration for the public interest (select all that apply):

Marginal costs for dissemination
Marginal costs for dissemination + fair return on investment (ROI)
Market price
Which of the following types of non-monetary compensation would incentivise you
to engage in a B2G data-sharing collaboration for the public interest (select all that
apply):
Tax incentives
Increased know-how and innovation through co-creation with public bodies
Reputation/ public recognition programmes (e.g. corporate social
responsibility)
Investment of public funds to support the development of trusted technical
tools for B2G data sharing
I don't know / no opinion
Other
Please specify
200 character(s) maximum

### II. Business-to-business data sharing

In this section, we would like to hear your views on fair contractual terms and conditions as an important tool that can stimulate companies to exchange their data while safeguarding the freedom of contracts and in full compliance with applicable legislation (such as the GDPR or competition law). The Data Strategy intends to promote business-to-business (B2B) data sharing which will benefit in particular start-ups and SMEs, putting emphasis on facilitating B2B voluntary data sharing based on contracts. We are seeking options for promoting fairness in contracts governing access to and use of data.

Model contract terms would provide businesses willing to share data, but lacking the experience, in particular SMEs and start-ups, with practical guidance on how to set up the contract based on fair terms. The use of such model contract terms would be voluntary for the parties.

A legislative fairness test for all B2B data sharing contracts would create general boundaries with the purpose to prevent the application of abusive contract clauses imposed by the party with the stronger bargaining power on the weaker party. The fairness test would only address excessive clauses while all other terms would be left to the parties' contractual freedom. A contracting party would not be bound by an unfair contract term. Precedents for a B2B fairness test in EU law can be found in Directives 2011/7/EU (Late Payments) and Directive (EU) 2019/633 (Unfair trading practices in the food supply chain).

If sectoral rules were to establish a data access right, horizontal access modalities would regulate in a

harmonized way how data access rights should be exercised while the possible creation of sectoral data access rights would be left to future sectoral legislation, where justified. The contract which the parties would agree for such data access could be based on variations of fair, reasonable, proportionate, transparent and non-discriminatory terms taking into account possible specificities of the relevant sectoral legislation. Whenever personal data are concerned, processing of such data shall comply with the GDPR. The data concerned would not include commercially sensitive data that could facilitate collusive outcomes on the market, nor data that is very strategic for competition, including trade secrets, nor legally protected data, for instance those covered by intellectual property rights

data, for instance those covered by intellectual property rights.
Does your company share data with other companies? (This includes providing
data to other companies and accessing data from other companies)
Yes
No
I don't know / no opinion
Are you:
Data holder
Data user
Both data holder and user
Other
In the last five years, how often has your company shared data with other
companies?
Many times
Only a few times
Don't know
Please describe the type of data shared, and the type of businesses with whom it is
shared
200 character(s) maximum
On what basis does your company share data with other companies?
Voluntary
Mandatory
Both voluntary and mandatory
I don't know / No opinion

Why does your company share data with other companies?

Optimisation of the supply chain
Predictive maintenance
Precision farming
Moving to circular production
Training algorithms for Al
Design of innovative solutions/products
Other
Please specify
200 character(s) maximum
Which services/products based on data sharing exist/are under development in your sector and what type of data are needed for these purposes?  300 character(s) maximum
What benefits from data sharing do you expect to be reaped in your sector?  300 character(s) maximum
Has your company experienced difficulties/encountered issues when requesting
access to other companies' data?
○ Yes
No
I don't know / no opinion
How often did such difficulties occur in the last 5 years?
Very often
Often
Sometimes
Rarely
I don't know / no opinion

What was the nature of such difficulties/issues?

The data holder refused to give access to data for reasons other than competition law concerns	
The data holder is prevented by law to give access to data There is no legal basis for the data holder to give access to data The data holder gave access to data at unreasonable conditions, e.g. unilateral change of contractual terms, disproportionate restriction of us data, limitations in the termination of contract The data holder gave access to data at an unreasonable price Technical reasons like the data was not in usable format or quality or la shared vocabularies or metadata or the data holder doesn't support standards for enforce data usage controls (connector) Other I don't know / no opinion	
Please indicate the type of difficulties / issues	
200 character(s) maximum	
• •	

Do you agree that horizontal access modalities based on variations of fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory conditions applicable to data access rights,

established in specific sectors, could contribute to increasing data sharing between businesses (including for example co-generated non-personal IoT data in professional use)?  Yes No I don't know / no opinion
What, in you view, could be the benefits or risks of the options mentioned in the three previous questions, for example in relation to incentives for data collection, competitiveness and administrative burden  300 character(s) maximum
Regarding data access at fair, reasonable, proportionate, transparent and non-discriminatory conditions, which of the following elements do you consider most relevant to increase data sharing?  **at most 3 choice(s)**  The party sharing data obtains a reasonable yield on investment and the party requesting access to data pays a reasonable fee  Distinctions can be made depending on the type of data or the purpose of its use  Availability of standards for interoperability that would allow data sharing and exploitation at a low marginal cost (in terms of time and money)  Structures enabling the use of data for computation without actually disclosing the data  Availability of an impartial dispute settlement mechanism  None of the above
Other
I don't know / no opinion
Please explain
200 character(s) maximum
III. Tools for data sharing: smart contracts

This section seeks to get your views on smart contracts. Smart contracts are computer programs, which automatically execute data and/or value transfers according to certain predetermined parameters. Smart contracts have important potential in manufacturing 4.0, smart mobility, and smart energy. Smart contracts can play an important role here by automating data transfers and data pooling, by triggering payments for data transfers and for guaranteeing the implementation of conditions linked to a data transfer. The following questions aim to (1) solicit your experiences with smart contracts and relevant uses cases, and (2) get your views on the need of harmonized standards for smart contracts in order to ensure interoperability and what the essential elements of such standards should be.

Are you using smart contracts or have you been involved in proofs of concept or pilots for Distributed Ledger Technologies that make use of smart contracts?  Yes No
Please briefly explain the use case(s) you tested  200 character(s) maximum
Do you consider that smart contracts could be an effective tool to technically
implement the data access and use in the context of co-generated IoT data, in
particular where the transfer is not only one-off but would involve some form of
continuous data sharing?
© Yes
<sup>™</sup> No
Please explain your answer
200 character(s) maximum
Do you consider that when individuals request data portability from businesses,
smart contracts could be an effective tool to technically implement data transfers, in
particular where the transmission is not only one-off but would involve some form of
continuous data sharing?
© Yes
No
Please explain your answer
200 character(s) maximum

In your experience, what are the primary challenges for scaling smart contracts across blockchains and/or across ecosystems? Are these challenges related to: (0 lowest, 10 highest)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Legal uncertainty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lack of interoperability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difficulties with governance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Data protection issues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Competition law compliance concerns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please specify
If interoperability is an issue for scaling smart contracts, which requirements should
inform standardisation to scale smart contracts across blockchains and/or across
ecosystems? Should such standards determine in particular minimum safeguards
for cyber security? If so, which best practices would you consider relevant?
300 character(s) maximum

# IV. Clarifying rights on non-personal Internet-of-Things data stemming from professional use

In this section, we would like to hear your views on non-personal data that is generated by smart objects connected to the Internet-of-Things ('IoT objects') in professional use. Examples of such objects include industrial robots, machine tools with sensors, construction engines or smart farming equipment.

Do you currently or are you planning to use in the near future a smart object connecting to the Internet-of-Things?

- Yes
- O No
- I don't know / no opinion

Do you agree that IoT objects and data coming from such objects may represent
new challenges for market fairness when access to relevant information concerning
the functioning and performance is held by the manufacturer of such object?
Yes
No
I don't know / no opinion
Please explain your answer
200 character(s) maximum

To what extent are the following elements well addressed in contracts relating to the sale or long-term lease of IoT objects for professional use?

	Very well addressed	Somewhat well addressed	Neutral	Not well addressed	Not at all well addressed	I don't know/ no opinion
Right to know which data is being collected by the IoT object'	0	0	0	0	0	0
Right to access data generated by the IoT for own information purposes	©	0	0	•	0	0
Rights to use data generated by the IoT object by selected parties	©	•	0	•	•	•
Information on applicable legal rules on access to data in terminal equipment (ePrivacy Directive)	©	©	©	©	©	0
Rights to transmit data generated by the IoT object to selected parties	0	0	0	0	0	0
Incentives (services, functionalities or other rewards) for permitting						

the manufacturer of the IoT object, his business partners or third parties to use the data that the object generates	©	©	©	©	©	•
Protection of trade secrets and other commercially sensitive information in the context of the regular data feedbacks of the IoT object	©	•	•	•	•	•
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0

Please explain
200 character(s) maximum
Have you experienced any of the following as a result of insufficient rights in
contracts relating to the sale or long-term lease of an IoT object?
I could not sell the IoT object onwards
I could not pick and choose a repair or maintenance company of my choice
I could not use a data analytics service offered by another company because it was legally impossible to allow this service to read the data from the object that I use
I could not use a data analytics service offered by another company because it was technically impossible to allow this service to read the data from the object that I use
I could not use the data internally (including combining it with other data I hold)
Other
No, I have not experienced any of the above
Please explain  200 character(s) maximum
200 Character(s) maximum
How relevant where the difficulties signalled in response to the previous question?
They appear frequently and/or are having a considerable impact on my business
They appear infrequently and/or are having only a minor impact on my business
They only appear rarely and/or have an insignificant impact on my business
I don't know / no opinion
Do you feel you are able to acquire sufficient contractual rights to use the data that the components your company develops generate in order to observe how these components perform in real-world scenarios?
Yes, my company is able to acquire the rights it needs.

My company cannot acquire the rights to use a sufficient amount of data.

<ul> <li>My company cannot acquire the rights to use the data for the purposes it would like to (including sharing it with third parties).</li> <li>My company cannot use any of the data.</li> <li>I don't know / no opinion</li> </ul>
Is your company in the business of after-sales services that use data from IoT objects in professional use in order to offer that service (e.g. repair and maintenance, data analytics services)?  Yes No I don't know / no opinion
Has your company experienced difficulties in accessing relevant data?  Yes  No I don't know / no opinion
What was the nature of such difficulties?  Outright denial of data access  Prohibitive monetary conditions for data access  Prohibitive technical conditions for data access  Restrictive legal conditions for data access and use  Competition law compliance concerns  Other  I don't know / no opinion
Please specify  200 character(s) maximum
How relevant where the difficulties signalled in response to the previous question?  They appear frequently and/or are having a considerable impact on my business  They appear infrequently and/or are having only a minor impact on my business  They only appear rarely and/or have an insignificant impact on my business

#### I don't know / no opinion

# Please provide reasons 200 character(s) maximum

# V. Improving portability for business users of cloud services

In this section we would like to hear your views on cloud service portability. In order to prevent vendor lockin, it is necessary that business users can easily switch cloud providers, by porting their digital assets in the broadest sense, including data and applications, from one cloud provider to another provider or back to their own infrastructure and software on-premise IT systems, including those digital assets stored at the edge of the network.

Cloud service providers and cloud users have jointly developed <u>self-regulatory ('SWIPO')</u> codes of conduct to address this issue in laaS- and SaaS-specific contexts (laaS i.e. Infrastructure as a Service; SaaS, i.e. Software as a Service), as mandated by Regulation (EU) 2018/1807 on a framework for the free flow of non-personal data in the European Union.

As part of the Commission's evaluation of the development and implementation of the codes of conduct, the Commission will evaluate whether self-regulation in the field of business-to-business (B2B) data portability achieved the desired outcomes or whether other policy options should be considered.

The outcome of the <u>recent public consultation on European Strategy for Data</u> showed that 22.6% of the total respondents are of the opinion that the self-regulation is not the appropriate best practice in area of data portability. On the contrary, 30.8% agreed it is appropriate practice. The remaining (46.6%) of respondents did not express their opinion on the topic. However, 48% of the respondents answered that they have experienced problems in the functioning of the cloud market, the most common problem experienced being vendor lock-in.

Considering the above, the following questions aim to receive additional input on the topic of B2B data portability.

Was your organisation aware of the SWIPO Codes of Conduct prior to filling in this questionnaire?

- Yes
- O No
- I don't know /no opinion

In your opinion, do the self-regulatory SWIPO codes of conduct on data portability developed by the cloud stakeholders represent a suitable approach to address cloud service portability?

Yes
No
I don't know /no opinion
Please explain
In your opinion, could the SWIPO codes of conduct represent a suitable approach to address cloud service portability, if:
The principles formulated in the self-regulatory SWIPO codes of conduct would be binding for all cloud services offered in Europe
The codes of conduct would be supplemented by Standard Contractual Clauses translating the Codes' requirement into contractual elements
Both Other
Other
Please specify
200 character(s) maximum
Do you consider there is a need to establish a right to portability for business users of cloud computing services in EU legislation?  Yes
© No
I don't know / no opinion
Please explain your answer, detailing as much as possible what this right should entail.  200 character(s) maximum
Places explain your answer
Please explain your answer  200 character(s) maximum

What legislative approach would be the most suitable in your opinion, if the data portability right for cloud users would be laid down in an EU legislation?

Can you be more specific about which standards should be developed in this regard?

200 character(s) maximum
Do you consider that formally requesting European standardisation development
organisations to design such standards or the necessary APIs would be an
appropriate solution?
© Yes
No
I don't know / no opinion
Please specify how such standards should be identified / developed
200 character(s) maximum
Would it be necessary in your opinion to develop Standard Contractual Clauses for cloud service portability to improve negotiating position of the cloud users?
Yes, it would be necessary and sufficient as a stand alone solution.
Yes, it would be necessary but in addition to a legislative right of data portability
It would not be necessary but it would simplify the data portability and/or harmonise its aspects across the EU
No, it would not be necessary
No opinion
Do you have any other comments you would like to address with respect to cloud service portability, which were not addressed above?
300 character(s) maximum
VI. Complementing the portability right under Article 20 GDPR

In this section we would like to hear your views on the portability of personal data. Under Article 20 of the GDPR, individuals can decide to port certain personal data to an organisation or service of their choice. Non-discriminatory access to smart metering data is mandated by Article 23 Directive (EU) 2019/944 on common rules for the internal market for electricity. Additional rules are proposed for facilitating the portability of personal data generated in the context of an online service offered by a "gatekeeper platform" under Article 6(1)(h) of the proposal for a Digital Markets Act (COM(2020) 842 final).

Smart connected objects connected to the Internet-of-Things (IoT objects) and services available on them, e.g. smart home appliances or wearables, generate a growing amount of data. Normally, the data

generated by such objects and by the services available on them in their interaction with their human users are personal data. Such data is covered by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Any data stored in terminal equipment, such as connected objects, can only be accessed in accordance with Article 5 (3) of Directive 2002/58/EC (ePrivacy Directive). However, the obligations under Article 20 GDPR does not require the controller to put in place the technical infrastructure to enable continuous or real-time portability.

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Individual owners of a smart connected object (e.g. wearable or household appliance) should be able to permit whomever they choose to easily use the data generated by their use of that object."

0	Strongly agree
0	Somewhat agree
	Neutral
	Somewhat disagree
	Strongly disagree
	I don't know / no opinion

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "The device manufacturer of a smart connected object (e.g. wearable or household appliance) should be able to permit whomever they choose to easily use the data generated by the use of that object, without the agreement of the user."

Strongly agree
Somewhat agree
Neutral
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree
I don't know / no opinion

Among the elements listed below, which are the three most important elements that prevent the right under Article 20 GDPR to be fully effective?

The absence of an obligation to provide a well-documented Application
Programming Interface
The absence of an obligation to provide the data on a continuous basis
The absence of universally used methods of identification or authentication
of the individual that makes the portability request in a secure manner
The absence of clearer rules on data types in scope
The absence of clear rules on liability in case of misuse of the data ported

The absence of standards ensuring data interoperability, including at the
semantic level
Other
I don't know / no opinion
Please specify
200 character(s) maximum

### VII. Intellectual Property Rights – Protection of Databases

The Directive 96/9/EC on the legal protection of databases (Database Directive) provides for two types of protection for databases. Firstly, databases can be protected, when original, under copyright law. Copyright protection applies to databases (collections of data) that are creative/original in the selection and/or arrangement of the contents and constitute their authors' own intellectual creation.

Secondly, databases for which a substantial investment has been made into the obtaining, presentation and verification of the data can benefit from the protection under the so-called "sui generis" right. Such protection is automatically granted to the maker of any database which fulfils these conditions. The maker of databases protected under the sui generis right can prevent the extraction or re-use of their database content. The Directive lays down two main mechanisms to manage rights of users: the exception regimes (including the provision of specific exceptions in the fields of teaching, scientific research, public security or for private purposes) and the rights of lawful users.

To sum up, the copyright protection of databases only arises where the structure of the database, including the selection and arrangement of the database's contents, constitute the author's own intellectual creation. The sui generis right protects, as an intangible asset, the results of the financial and/or professional investment carried out towards the methodical and systematic classification of independent data.

The Commission published a report evaluating the Database Directive in 2018. The evaluation highlighted that important questions arose as regards the interaction of the Directive with the current data economy, notably in view of the potential legal uncertainties as to the possible application of the sui generis right to machine generated data. The evaluation concluded that the Directive could be revisited to facilitate data access and use in the broad context of the data economy and in coordination with the implementation of a broader data strategy.

The following consultation is focusing on the aspect of the application of the Database Directive within the Data Economy, while also asking questions of a more general nature on this instrument.

#### **Intellectual Property Rights - General questions**

In your view, how are intellectual property (IP) rights (including the sui generis database right) and trade secrets relevant for business-to-business sharing of data?

To protect valuable data through IP, where possible

To share data in a manner that ensures control on who will use it and for
what purposes
To protect data from misappropriation and misuse
To refuse sharing of data
☐ IP has nothing to do with data sharing
I don't know / no opinion
Other
Please specify or explain
200 character(s) maximum
"Control over the acceptability and use of data about and he realized through the
"Control over the accessibility and use of data should not be realised through the establishment of additional layers of exclusive, proprietary rights". To what extent
do you agree with this statement?
Strongly agree
Somewhat agree
Neutral
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree
I don't know / no opinion
Dia ana avelais
Please explain
200 character(s) maximum
Questions on the Database Directive
Please select what describes you best
Maker of databases containing machine generated data
Maker of databases containing other type of data than machine generated
data
Maker of databases containing mixed type of data
User of databases containing machine generated data
User of databases containing other type of data than machine generated
data
User of databases containing mixed type of data

<ul> <li>User-maker of databases containing machine generated data</li> <li>User-maker of databases containing other type of data than machine generated data</li> <li>User-maker of databases containing mixed type of data</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>
Please specify
In your view, how does the Database Directive apply to machine generated data (in particular data generated by sensor-equipped objects connected to the Internet-of-things objects)?
I consider that the sui generis right under the Database Directive may apply to databases containing those data and offers opportunity to regulate the relationship with clients, including licences
I consider that the sui generis right under the Database Directive may apply to databases containing those data and offers protection against third-party infringements (i.e. unauthorised use of machine generated data)
<ul> <li>I am not sure what the relationship is between such data and the Database</li> <li>Directive</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>
Please explain and substantiate your answers with concrete examples and any useful information and experience you may have.  200 character(s) maximum
According to your experience, which of these statements are relevant to your activity / protection of your data?
The protection awarded by the sui generis right of the EU Database  Directive is used to regulate contractual relationships with clients
The protection awarded by the sui generis right of the EU Database Directive is used against third-party infringements
The protection awarded by the Trade Secret Rights Directive [Directive (EU) 2016/943] is used against third-party infringements
<ul> <li>Other contractual means of protection are used</li> </ul>

Technical means to prevent illicit extraction of content are used  There is certain content that is deliberately not protected  I don't know / no opinion  Other
Please explain and substantiate your answers with concrete examples and any useful information and experience you may have.  200 character(s) maximum
Have the sui generis database right provided by the Database Directive (Directive 96/9/EC) or possible uncertainties with its application created difficulties and prevented you from seeking to access or use data?  Yes No I don't know / no opinion
The difficulties you are aware of or have experienced because of the sui generis database right relate to the access or use of:  Data generated in the context of Internet-of-things/machine generated data Data other than generated in the context of Internet-of-things/machine generated data Data, irrespective of their type (machine generated or data other than machine generated) No difficulties experienced I don't know / no opinion Other
Please specify  200 character(s) maximum
200 onaraoten ay maximum
What was the source of such difficulties?  No difficulties experienced Difficulty to find the right holder of the sui generis database right (database maker)

Lack of reaction from the part of the right holder of the sui generis database right / Refusal of cooperation from the part of the right holder of the sui generis database right  Prohibitive licence fees  Technical measures / technical difficulties  Denied access despite the proposed use falling under one of the exceptions defined in the Database Directive  Denied access despite the proposed use falling under the rights of the lawful user  Lack of clarity regarding application of the sui generis right to the database (incl. possible legal consequences and risk of litigation)  Other	
Please explain and substantiate your answers with concrete examples and any useful information and experience you may have. Please indicate how often you have encountered these difficulties in the past 5 years.  200 character(s) maximum	
Zee character(e) maximum	
To what extent do you agree that there is a need to review the sui generis protection for databases provided by the Database Directive, in particular as regards the access and sharing of data.  Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neutral Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree I don't know / no opinion	
Please explain and substantiate your answers with concrete examples and any useful information and experience you may have.  200 character(s) maximum	
	_

I don't know / no opinion
Please explain and substantiate your answers with concrete examples and any
useful information and experience you may have.
200 character(s) maximum
In your opinion, how should the new scope of the sui generis right be defined?  By narrowing the definition of the scope to exclude machine generated data  By explicitly including machine generated data in the scope  I don't know / no opinion  No need for a change of the scope  Other
Please explain and substantiate your answer with concrete examples and any
useful information and experience you may have. If possible, indicate also the
impact on cost and potential benefits of your selected option.
200 character(s) maximum
Do you think that the Database Directive should provide specific access rules to ensure access to data and prohibit companies from preventing access and
extraction through contractual and technical measures?
Strongly agree
Somewhat agree
Neutral Semowhat disagree
<ul><li>Somewhat disagree</li><li>Strongly disagree</li></ul>
I don't know / no opinion

achieved?
Creating a new exception
Creating compulsory licences to access data
Creating general access right
No need for a specific access rules
Other
I don't know / no opinion
Please explain and substantiate your answers with concrete examples and any useful information and experience you may have. If possible, indicate also the impact on cost and potential benefits of your selected option.  200 character(s) maximum
Do you agree that databases held by public authorities should be treated differently
than other type of databases under the Database Directive?
Strongly agree
<ul><li>Somewhat agree</li><li>Neutral</li></ul>
Somewhat disagree
Strongly disagree
I don't know / no opinion
r don't know / no opinion
In your opinion, how should databases held by public authorities be treated differently?
Creating an exception to the sui generis right
Excluding public sector databases from the scope of the sui generis right of the Database Directive
Creating compulsory licences to access public sector databases
No need for different treatment
Other
I don't know / no opinion

In your opinion, how would specific access rules in the Database Directive be best

Please explain and substantiate your answers with concrete examples and any useful information and experience you may have.

In 2018, the Commission published an Evaluation of Directive 96/9/EC on the legal protection of databases, which was preceded by a public consultation. The
Evaluation Report pointed out several legal uncertainties related to the Database
Directive that may prevent the Directive from operating efficiently. Please indicate
which of the following elements of the Database Directive could be reviewed:
Definition of a database
Notion of substantial investment in a database
Notion of substantial part of a database
Exclusive rights of database makers
Exceptions to the sui generis right
Notion of the lawful user and his rights and obligations
Term of protection
No elements need to be reviewed
I don't know/ no opinion
Other
Please explain and substantiate your answers with concrete examples and any
useful information and experience you may have. If possible, indicate also the
impact on cost and potential benefits of your selected option.
200 character(s) maximum
Please provide any other information that you find useful regarding the application
of the Database Directive in relation to the data economy.
200 character(s) maximum
Questions about trade secrets protection

200 character(s) maximum

As indicated in the intellectual property action plan (COM(2020) 760 final), fostering data sharing requires a secure environment where businesses can keep investing in data generation and collection, while sharing them in a secure way, in particular as regards their confidential business information and their trade secrets.

At EU level, the legal protection of trade secrets is harmonised by the Trade Secret Directive (Directive 2016/943), which has been transposed in all Member States and is not up for evaluation before 2026. It includes the definition of a trade secret, which means information meeting all of the following requirements:

- it is secret in the sense that it is not, as a body or in the precise configuration and assembly of its components, generally known among or readily accessible to persons within the circles that normally deal with the kind of information in question;
- it has commercial value because it is secret;
- it has been subject to reasonable steps under the circumstances, by the person lawfully in control of the information, to keep it secret.

The Directive defines cases of lawful and unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure of trade secrets. The

Directive also specifies the measures, procedures and remedies in case of unlawful acquisition, use or disclosure of a trade secret. Exceptions to trade secret protection as well as the freedom to reverse engineer are also included in the directive.
Do you rely on the legal protection of trade secrets when sharing data with other
businesses?
Yes
No
I don't know / no opinion
With whom do you share?
Partner
Supplier
Customer
Unrelated business
Other
Please specify
200 character(s) maximum
How do you ensure that the shared information remains secret?
By contractual arrangements, e.g. a non-disclosure agreement
By using a trustee (a law firm or another trusted intermediary)
By means of a special cyber security solution that also ensures
confidentiality, such as encryption
Other
No specific measures are taken

Please specify
200 character(s) maximum
Places indicate why
Please indicate why
We are not certain whether the legal protection for trade secrets applies
We do not share commercially sensitive data with other businesses
We do not share any data with other businesses
I don't know / no opinion
Other
Please specify
200 character(s) maximum
If you share confidential business information, how do you ensure control over the use of your data by other businesses, i.e. that it is not misused, misappropriated or disclosed unlawfully?
We rely on the legal protection of trade secrets
We rely on intellectual property rights
We rely on contractual arrangements
We rely on technical means
We do not take any specific measures to control the use of our data
I don't know / no opinion
Other
Please specify which rights
200 character(s) maximum
If all and all and a second of
If other, please specify
200 character(s) maximum
VIII. Safeguards for non-personal data in international contexts

Non-personal data generated by EU companies may be subject to access requests pursuant to provisions of laws of third (non-EU/EEA) countries. This would be specifically relevant when processing of such data occurs in a cloud computing service, the provider of which is subject to the laws of third countries. The recent proposal for a Data Governance Act does not cover such services. The access requests can be of a legitimate nature, in particular for certain cross-border criminal law investigations or in the context of administrative procedures. In particular, these requests may be made in the framework of multilateral or bilateral agreements that determine certain conditions and safeguards. Whereas the GDPR provides for rules and safeguards in this respect, for non-personal data there are currently no statutory law rules that would oblige the cloud computing service providers to give precedence to EU law on the protection of IP and trade secrets. There can be differences in approach between the EU and third countries, e.g. to the fundamental rights safeguards or on the scope of legislation that can mandate access requests to data for law enforcement and other legitimate purposes. Where conflicts of law occur, this may expose the cloud providers to conflicting legal obligations and as a result of this conflict put commercially sensitive data of EU companies at risk.

How likely do you think it is that a cloud computing service or other data processing service provider that is processing data on your company's/organisation's behalf may be subject to an order or request based on foreign legislation for the mandatory transfers of your company/organisation data?

- This is a big risk for our company
- This is a risk for our company
- This is a minor risk for our company
- This not a risk at all for our company
- We do not use cloud computing/data processing service provider to store or process our company
- I don't know / no opinion

Please explain what order or request for the mandatory transfers of you company/ organization data would you consider as illegitimate or abusive and as such presenting the risk for your company:

20	00 character(s) maximum

Do you consider that such an order or request may lead to the disclosure and/ or misappropriation of a trade secret or other confidential business information?

- This is a big risk for our company
- This is a risk for our company
- This is a minor risk for our company
- This not a risk at all for our company
- I don't know / no opinion

/organisation data to foreign authorities affect your decision on selection of the data processing service providers (e.g. cloud computing service providers) that store or process your company/organisation data?  Yes No I do not use data processing services to store or process my data I don't know / no opinion	
Please explain how it affects your decision  200 character(s) maximum	
	_
In light of risk assessment of your data processing operations as well as in the context of applicable EU and national legal frameworks (e.g. national requirements to keep certain data in the EU/EEA), do you consider that your company /organisation data should be stored and otherwise processed:  All of my company/organization data in the EU/EEA only  Some of my company/organization data in the EU/EEA only  All of my company/organization data anywhere in the world  I don't know / no opinion	<b>;</b>
Please explain what categories of data that should be stored in the EU/EEA only	
are concerned and why	
200 character(s) maximum	_
In your opinion, what would be the best solution at an EU regulatory level to mitigate the risk for European companies stemming from the request for access by foreign jurisdiction authorities to their data?	1
Introducing an obligation for data processing service providers (e.g. cloud service providers) to notify the business user every time they receive a request for access to their data from foreign jurisdiction authorities, to the extent possible under the foreign law in question	
Introducing an obligation for data processing service providers to notify to the Commission, for publication on a dedicated EU Transparency Portal, all	

extraternional foreign laws to which they are subject and which enable
access to the data they store or process on behalf of their business users
Introducing an obligation for data processing service providers to put in
place specified legal, technical and organisational measures to prevent the
transfer to or access of foreign authorities to the data they store or process
on behalf of their business users, where such transfer or access would be in
conflict with EU or national laws or applicable international agreements on
exchange of data
Providing for compatible rules at international level for such requests.
Other solution
There is no action needed to address this
☐ I do not know / no opinion
— I do not know / no opinion
Please specify
200 character(s) maximum
Closing section (possibility to upload a document, and to share final
comments)
Please upload your file
Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed
Final comments