

RESOLUTION

on the Baltic's leadership and cooperation in the data economy field, based on discussions held during the BALTIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME DATA ECONOMY LEADERS IN EU conference

The international conference Baltic's Opportunity to Become Data Economy Leaders in The EU was held on 24th March 2021 by the national ICT associations of INFOBALT (Lithuania), LIKTA (Latvia) and ITL (Estonia). The conference gathered high level speakers from public and private sector including Andres Sutt, Minister of Entrepreneurship and Information Technology of Estonia, Rimantas Žylius, Advisor to Lithuanian Prime Minister on Digital Transformation, Open Data, Public Procurement and their leverage on industrial policies Āris Dzērvāns, Deputy State Secretary on Information and Communication of Latvia, Eglė Markevičiūtė, Vice-Minister of Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Mart Mägi, Director General at Statistics Estonia, Ieva Ilves, Advisor to the President of Latvia for Information and Digital Policy, Casper Klynge, Vice President, Microsoft European Government Affairs and members of European business associations.

The conference discussions revolved around key topics: the possible implications and risks of the digital and data sovereignty idea; the potential of data economy; free flow of data and challenges related to interoperability of data exchange between countries.

Based on discussion the following key principles for the successful data economy development in Baltic's were highlighted:

- Data economy should be built on efficient, trustworthy, transparent, safe and responsible use of data in accordance with our shared values. On this basis, we should cooperate with EU strategic allies in defining mutually acceptable data sharing standards and seeking to establish them as global standards.
- Our approach to data sovereignty must be geared towards growing digital leadership both on regional and EU level. It can be achieved by building needed capacities, while preserving open markets and strengthening global cooperation and avoiding protectionism that will impede economic growth, innovation and security.

- We need less control and more good governance, including usages of common interoperability standards, application of 'only once' principle is a key for cross-border data economy. Data protection is important not localization.
- Foundation of digital transformation is legislation which should be an enabler for innovation of non-restrictive manner. The balanced safeguards for adequate data protection and privacy should be put in place in such a way which should not hamper innovation, but to foster it.
- Digital innovation benefits from cross-sector and cross-country partnerships promoting public and private cooperation. Bottlenecks and problems that inhibit successful cross-border flows of data between businesses and the public sector should be avoided. We should be allowed to opt for the best, more secure and more advanced data sharing infrastructure.

Hereby we declare our readiness to endorse the following objectives and actions and invite all parties concerned to:

1. Speed up the development of regional data economy by fostering implementation of cross-border public e-services.
2. Adopt and implement key digital capacities, including the deployment of secure cloud infrastructure and interoperable services for the purposes of boosting economic growth, innovation and using high end technologies that will strengthen protection of data.
3. Apply European Interoperability Framework in development of public e-services.
4. Boost real time economy regional-wide by implementing the following services: cross-border eCMR full scale working solution; cross-border KYC utility; e-receipt and other services what respond to business demand.
5. Develop data collaborative projects among the Baltic's that could also expand on a European level taking into account existing best practice examples, that will enable the future use of Public and Privately possessed data.
6. Develop the framework for health data exchange among states in order to fight pandemic and enable researchers to save the lives of citizens and prolong healthy life expectancy in Baltic's.

ITL, LIKTA, INFOBALT is offering expertise and support for Governmental institutions to facilitate and catalyse development of regional Data economy initiatives, including common data space among Baltic countries with the possibility to scale it also to other countries.



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