

REMARKABLE Gaia-X ROADSHOW NETWORKING EVENT IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

Gaia-X HUB ECOSYSTEM IN SLOVENIA RECEIVES A BOOST WITH WELL-ORGANIZED EVENT

Tomaž Čebela and **Flavio Fuart**, Hub coordinators for Gaia-X Hub Slovenia

On 7 September 2023 at the Gaia-X Roadshow, there was something to hear at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (CCIS) HQ's in Ljubljana - a vision of the EU's new data economy. Participants from the Slovenian business community, university members, and government representatives, gathered to receive an inspiring day filled with knowledge about the world of data spaces in the field of manufacturing that is emerging in the EU.

Director of the ICT Association of Slovenia, Mr. Nenad Šutanovac, emphasised in its opening remarks that: ***"Our mission is to foster innovation and promote collaboration within our vibrant tech community, and hosting events like this aligns perfectly with that goal."*** After the opening remarks, Gaia-X CEO Mr Francesco Bonfiglio, shared with gathered his invaluable insights into the core principles and global significance of the Gaia-X system, digital market needs and the future developments in the field of data economy. Then public heard from Mr Gernot Baumgartner,

who presented the EUProGiant project, a shining example of European collaborative efforts in the field of manufacturing.

In the second part of the event, there was a panel discussion focusing on the "Gaia-X State of Play and Slovenian Eco-System," which featured heated discussion between panellists. Moderator of the panel Mr. Flavio Fuart, coordinator of Gaia-X hub Slovenia, opened the discussion with "Are we doing anything wrong?" after a quick survey of the public showed that only a few understand the data space concept. Mr Bonfiglio replied that: ***"We are not doing anything wrong. We are doing something big. Technology will become a tool to provide trust."*** Technical aspects of data spaces that support the digitalisation of the value chain were then discussed with Mr Pierre Gronlier, Gaia-X CTO, who explained that to assess what you need to do, you need to have at least: a certain amount of information, verification of the information that is valid/legitimate and the history of that information. On the moderators' question, what is the added value of using the Gaia-X framework answered Mr. Alexander Kinzer, research assistant at the TU Wien, who stated that every company decides by themselves, what is the added value of a certain framework for them. With this new framework, you can fix problems in production or in the supply chain and optimise your processes with just a simple subscription to a new service that fits your business environment. This approach can bring SME's into this new data spaces framework. Boštjan Gomilšek, director of the Enterprise Software Solutions at the Slovenian SME Result d.o.o. described two different projects that they are currently working on implementing data spaces and the Gaia-X framework offers important principles to



guarantee trust.

Attendee Gregor Burger, a researcher at the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, told us that the Gaia-X Roadshow event was an excellent opportunity to see new developments and meet the stakeholders working in the European digital ecosystem, from business to academia. It has become once again apparent that due to its complexity, the need for early adoption and mastery of the domain competencies is vital. As one of the most important summaries of the event, he would point out that the Gaia-X AISBL organisation offers federation services at the level of mature solutions for the market and not only for research/testing purposes.

Frontiers in the field of data spaces in Slovenia are moving with the hard work of the Gaia-X Hub Slovenia coordinated by the ICT Association of Slovenia at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia. Together with other European data solution frameworks, they are building a bridge between innovation, knowledge, and opportunities for Slovenian businesses.

You can find more information and activities about the Slovenian Gaia-X Hub [HERE >>](#)

<https://gaia-x.gzs.si/>

