BDVA response to EOSC public consultation on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

Introduction

BDVA welcomes the possibility to provide feedback to the EOSC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. BDVA agrees with EOSC on the recognition of the "importance of data management and sharing for carrying out multi-disciplinary research and to stimulate major industrial and social innovations while adapting cutting-edge digital technologies". BDVA also seconds EOSC's statement concerning the increased relevance of scientific data sharing brought by the recent Covid pandemic. The pandemic has shown the importance of data sharing (across borders and disciplines) for science and innovation and for addressing societal challenges.

BDVA recalls its White Paper on Data Sharing, which acknowledges the importance of enabling data analytics across European data sharing ecosystems including universities, research centres, industry, government and multi-national bodies, and by leveraging existing pan-European initiatives and networks such as EOSC. In this respect, BDVA already identified in 2019 several opportunities for the scientific community which stem from further data sharing and which are referred to in the EOSC SRIA:

- Increasing socio-economic impact of research data across domains and borders
- Advancing science and open innovation through data availability
- Monetisation opportunities brought about by emerging data-driven business models

European Data Spaces

BDVA strongly supports the need for the EOSC Partnership to seek for synergies with the European Data Spaces and to encourage scientific data sharing towards other communities including businesses and public sector. In this respect, BDVA highlights the need to avoid establishing data silos, even for research. Architectures, standards, protocols and governance models should be available to unlock such silos, over which a) fair and secure data exchange and sharing takes place, b) protection of personal data is paramount, c) distributed and decentralised solutions enabling new types of data value chains can be explored.

BDVA considers that the BDVe and the EUHubs4Data projects, in which BDVA participates, might support EOSC in establishing links and collaboration between different data sharing initiatives, also in the context of research data. The BDVe project, which is finishing in 2020, has established an ecosystem of data sharing projects, which can be leveraged for the future. The EUHubs4Data project, starting in September, will collaborate with other relevant initiatives in Europe working around Big Data and related technologies, establishing itself as the European reference on experimentation and innovation on Big Data. BDVA will seek collaboration and exploitation of synergies between the BDVe and EUHubs4Data projects and the EOSC activities.

AA14: Widening to the Public and Private Sectors

BDVA looks forward to collaborating closely with EOSC in the context of the future Public Private Partnerships. While collaboration and discussions have already started, BDVA recognises the importance of strengthening ties in the context of Horizon Europe and for establishing well-functioning European Data Sharing Spaces. One of the investment areas for the AI, Data and Robotics Partnership (Investment Area 1 – Mobilising AI, Data and Robotics Ecosystem) particularly focuses on joining forces with other initiatives and notably research communities and horizontal partnerships.

Furthermore, the Strategic Research Innovation and Deployment Agenda (SRIDA) of the AI, Data and Robotics Partnership contains a number of topics which are of relevance also for EOSC's activities, particularly innovation enablers including Data for AI and cross-technology enablers such as the Continuous and Integrated Knowledge and the Systems, Methodologies and Hardware. Finally, the AI, Data and Robotics Partnership proposal highlights a number of investment areas in which synergies between BDVA and EOSC can be exploited, notably concerning boosting Research and Industry collaboration. Topics for strengthened collaboration might include data privacy and privacy preserving technologies, data rights management and data governance, establishment of reference architectures and standards and common initiatives on data skills.