



Europe's Digital Future

Europe can't become an island in the Digital Ocean

Submarine Networks EMEA 2022

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STARTING POINT

Communication: Shaping Europe's digital future – the missing pillar and the lack of knowledge

- “The missing pillar” of Europe’s digital strategy;
- Europe’s potential to become a global data manager and digital services provider to the rest of the world risks remaining largely untapped;
- The European Union in the past year presented a series of proposals to turbocharge European companies’ use of data through so-called data spaces. Germany and France have led the charge to develop Europe’s cloud infrastructure via its flagship Gaia-X project to better compete with U.S. giants like Amazon, Microsoft or Google;
- But when it comes to undersea connections, it’s often unclear who owns, uses and oversees which lines and how these are subject to control by outside players. World powers like the U.S., China and Russia have clashed over control of these cables. Legacy networks are owned through public and private investments but increasingly, U.S. internet giants Google and Facebook have poured investments into this “backbone” of the internet;
- Neither the European Commission, nor other member states have any idea of how much data flows through these cables.
- The need of an “European Data-Gateway Platforms Strategy” including: mapping out how data is flowing in and out of Europe through submarine cables; listing cable systems that need replacement in the coming decade; and proposing a strategy to deal with security and dependency risks.

Ministerial Declaration

European Data Gateways as a key element of the EU's Digital Decade

- Highlighted the importance of international connectivity;
- Identified 4 international connectivity platforms relevant to the EU (EU-Atlantic, EU-Mediterranean, EU-North Sea and Arctic, EU-Baltic-Black Sea);
- Called for action to improve conditions that transform the EU into a world-class competitive data centre;
- Commitment to digital initiatives focused on international connectivity;
- Commitment to using funds when private investments are not sufficient (e.g., RRF, CEF2, DEP)

Ministerial Declaration

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The commitment:

- strengthen international partnerships for connectivity offering EU data storage and processing services to partners outside Europe;
- improve submarine cable network systems and establish satellite connectivity;
- ensure safe and secure connectivity networks

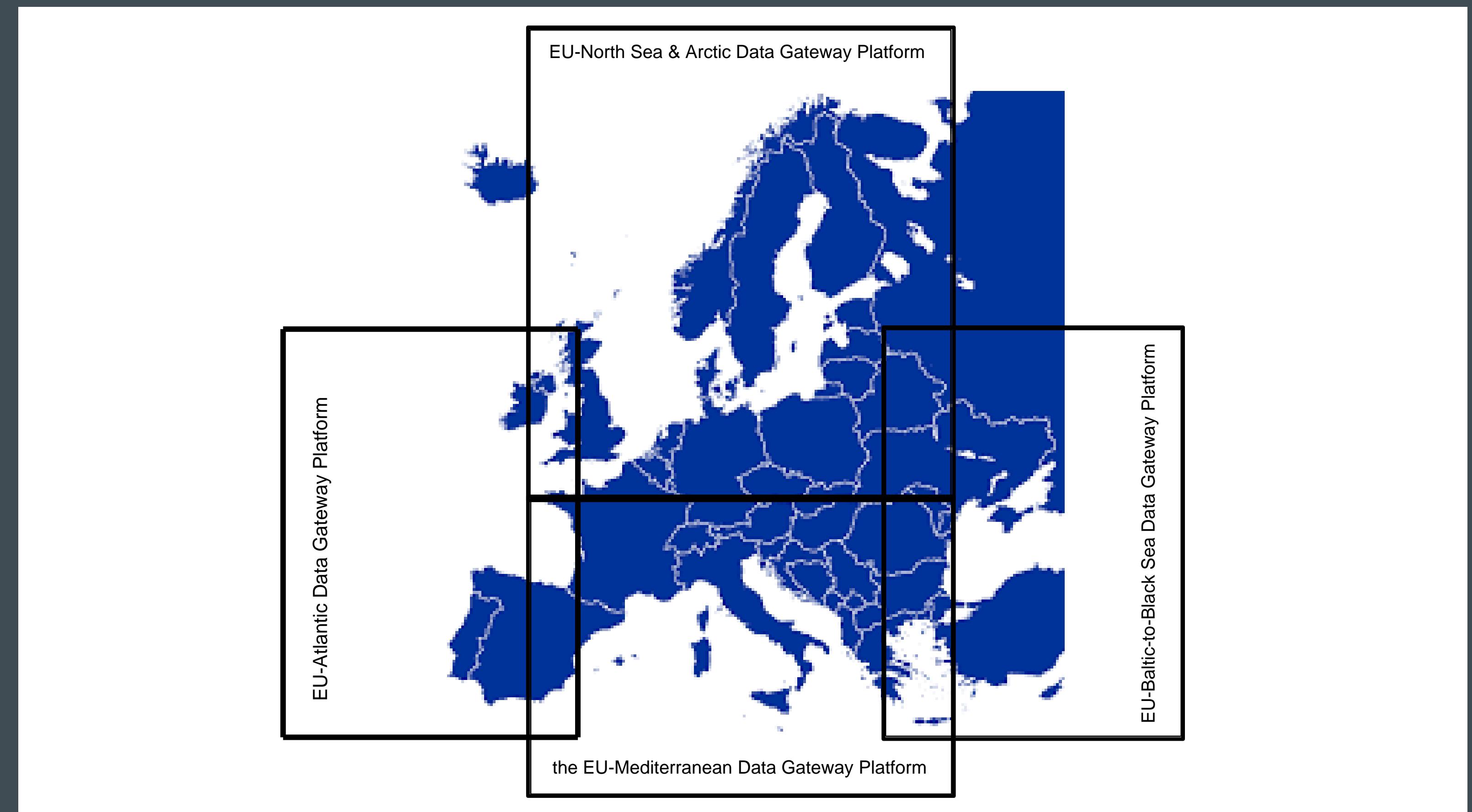
The Platforms

Ministerial Declaration

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Benefits of the 4 Platforms approach:

- Allow better planning and prioritize strategic investments;
- Empower technological sovereignty and strategic autonomy;
- Enhance informational and infrastructure security;
- Promote resilience and better connectivity inter EU Members;





Thank You