

IPCEI on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services (IPCEI-CIS)

For the European Union it is essential to build smart technological foundations for how data will be generated, stored, searched, analysed, processed, accessed, shared and exchanged to the benefits of the European economy, its businesses, public entities and communities. The **need to strategically invest in the next generation of European cloud and edge capacities** has been emphasised on several occasions such as in the **European Strategy for Data**, in the **EU Flagship area “Scale up”** under the **Recovery and Resilience Facility** put forward by the EU Commission, in the **European Council Conclusions** of 1-2 October 2020 and in the **Member States’ Joint Declaration on Building the Next Generation Cloud** in Europe of 15 October 2020.

Against this background Member States **must gather to offer a coordinated industrial response with significant European relevance**. The execution of an of **Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) on Next Generation Cloud Infrastructure and Services** will strategically contribute to effectively foster European data leadership and digital sovereignty; stronger and sustainable competitiveness of the EU economy and; the flourishing of smart cloud and edge solutions which are highly innovative, fully interoperable, highly secure, fully energy efficient and respectful of privacy. This will increase the sustainable and competitive adoption, access and choice for the end-users across the EU territory:

- The IPCEI will foster the development of **the next generation of highly scalable, federated, interoperable, trustworthy and energy-efficient cloud and edge infrastructures, services and platforms** leveraging when relevant existing national initiatives¹, the GAIA-X open source architectural framework and edge telco computing services to deliver on the **EU Data Strategy**.
- **The IPCEI should be established by EU Member States and have wide benefits for businesses and public entities** in terms of access, seamless use and power-efficient processing of their data in real-time with ultra-low latency and highly secure features from anywhere across the EU territory while not being subject to laws of foreign jurisdictions². The IPCEI will equip the EU with advanced and federated cloud and edge capabilities based on interconnection services and interoperable platforms. This will ultimately result in fostering the resilience and competitiveness of European industries and public entities while paving the way for cutting-edge digital innovation, products and services meeting end-users’ demands.
- The IPCEI will comprise both the **research, development and innovation (R&D&I)** and the **first industrial deployment (FID)** of the next generation of cloud and edge infrastructure and services including the associated middleware based on cutting-edge **open-source frameworks** and distributed, sustainable and highly scalable architectures. The IPCEI will benefit to sectors of the European Economy such as manufacturing, energy, mobility or healthcare.

¹ Such as those existing in Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands.

² In case providers are subject to such laws, they should demonstrate that verified safeguards are in place in order to ensure that any access request to data of EU citizens, businesses and entities is compliant with EU Law.

France, Germany, Italy and Spain **kindly invite all EU Member States and interested European stakeholders** to join the process to set up the next generation of cloud infrastructure and services in the EU together. We kindly ask all EU Member States to gather the national needs and demands of their industrial stakeholders and take part by bringing in concrete ideas and project proposals for a joint set-up.

There will be a **first joint workshop at government level on January 21, 2021** open for **all interested EU Member States** to gather common interests, bringing in first ideas and proposals of their respective industries, to strengthen pan-European cooperation and align further in the process of setting-up an IPCEI. At a second stage the intention is to invite European stakeholders from industry, public sector, research and academia as soon as possible via the Member States willing to participate into the IPCEI process.

[This section has been removed because it is not relevant anymore]

Background about IPCEI

IPCEI stands for “Important Project of Common European Interest”. Under this framework EU Member States are able to set-up important projects of common European interest, that are based on notified and authorized state aid and which include major contributions to growth, employment and competitiveness of the European industry and economy. An IPCEI must contribute to the strategic objectives of the European Union (EU) and must be conducted by at least two EU Member States. It must include cofinancing from the beneficiaries including private companies and disseminate positive spill-over effects across the whole EU. It must also pursue ambitious targets for Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I), which explicitly exceed current state-of-the-art technologies of the corresponding sector and First Industrial Deployment (FID).

For the IPCEI to qualify as compliant with EU competition rules and in particular the state aid rules important market or systemic failures needs to be demonstrated. The criteria for the analysis of the compatibility with the internal market of State aid to promote the execution of Important Projects of Common European Interest are described in the 2014 Communication from the Commission ([2014/C 188/02](#)).