

EURITAS SUMMIT 2021: How to Ensure Digital Sovereignty of European Governments

The international conference *EURITAS Summit 2021: Ensuring Digital Sovereignty of European Governments*, which will be held on September 30 in Brussels, will address some of key issues of digital sovereignty in Europe – cloud strategies, open source solutions and cyber security. The conference will be opened by European Commissioner for Budget and Administration Mr. Johannes Hahn, with participation of a number of prominent representatives from the public sector of the member states and European institutions.

“The availability of IT infrastructures and data is crucial for a functioning public administration. Given the tense global free trade, storing data outside the EU has become a risk to public administration. Digital sovereignty ensures that states and companies outside the EU cannot succeed in putting pressure on the EU and its member states.” said Markus Kaiser, President of Euritas and Managing Director of the Federal Computing Center in Austria.

As an association of IT providers in the public sector that brings together publicly owned companies and organizations from eight European countries, EURITAS focuses on important issues in digital transformation of public administration, both on national and European level. The theme of this year’s summit is in line with the EURITAS [positon paper](#) adopted in May 2020 and an initiative of EU leaders who have earlier this year called on the EU and European Commission to speed up digital transformation.

“Digital is the make-or-break issue. And Member States share that view. Digital spending in NextGenerationEU will even overshoot the 20 per cent target. That reflects the importance of investing in our European tech sovereignty. We have to double down to shape our digital transformation according to our own rules and values”, stated the Commission’s President Ursula von der Leyen.

Taking part in this current debate the EURITAS summit, divided in three panels, will look into several initiatives and concepts that guarantee the safety of public administration’s data in the cloud and compliance of cloud services with GDPR; examine the ways in which the open source software can reduce dependency on large suppliers that dominate the European ICT market and explore the ways to foster stronger cooperation and coordination to ensure the safety of the digital infrastructure and the data of citizens. The final discussion will give summary of the presentation and panels.

Opening and Introduction	Markus Kaiser, Euritas President / BRZ, Austria
Keynote	Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner
Panel “Cloud Strategies”	Pierre Chastanet, DG Connect, European Commission

	Ernst Stöck-Pukall, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy
	Herald Jongen, Partner Greenberg Traurig, The Netherlands
	David Vannozi, Cineca, Italy
Panel "Open Source"	Thomas Gageik, DG Informatics, European Commission
	Leonardo Favario, Digital Transformation Team of the Italian Government, Italy
	Gawain MacMillan, Dataport, Germany
Panel "Cyber Security"	Leonardo de Vizio, DG Connect, European Commission
	Philipp Amann, European Cybercrime Center, The Netherlands
	Cristian Hesselman, SIDN Labs, The Netherlands
	Hannu Naumanen, Valtori, Finland
Final Discussion	Luis Barreira de Sousa, Digital and Cyber Ambassador, Portugal
	Markus Richter, CIO of the German Government
	Sasa Bilic, Euritas Vice-President / APIS-IT, Croatia
	Markus Kaiser, Euritas President / BRZ, Austria

The one-day conference is an invitation only-event, intended for prominent representatives of the public sector of the member states and EU institutions. For more information on program and participants please see [EURITAS Summit 2021 - Agenda](#).