European data space
for smart communities

Deliverable 1.3

DS4SSCC Deliverable 1.3 onboarding complete

WP 1 – Program Management

Authors: Niek Verschure ('s-Hertogenbosch)
Reviewers: Corné Helmons (Rotterdam), Janni Joela (Tampere), Margriet Visscher (Future Insight)
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Revision History

(add rows as necessary)

Author Name, Partner short name	Description	Date
Niek Verschure, s-Hertogenbosch	City Project Manager cum New Project Coordinator for Consortia	10-November-2025
Corné Helmons, Rotterdam	City Project Manager	15-november-2025
Anni Joela, Tampere	City Project Manager	15-november-2025
Margriet, Future Insight	Consortia Partner Project Manager	15-november-2025

Abbreviations
(add rows as necessary)

Abbreviation	Definition	Abbreviation	Definition
DS4SSCC	European data space for smart communities (DS4SSCC)	DT-aCoGo	Digital Twinning as Common Good
OASC	Open & Agile Smart Cities & Communities	OUP	Open Urban Platform
WP	Work Package	PC	Pilot Coordinator

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1. Introduction

The Deliverable 1.3 DS4SSCC Onboarding is part of Work package 1: Program management.
In this Deliverable we combined most of the activities that were done upon request of OASC during the first months of the Pilot project. During this phase the OASC itself also used the 'Onboarding' term to group a set of presentations and activities.

2. Onboarding activities

Below is a list with most of the activities that were part of in the Onboarding process of OASC or can be seen as part of that. All have been completed; therefore we believe the deliverable has been met.

Practical actions at beginning

- Ownerhip Control Declaration
- PIC nrs. From all pilot partners
- Update Application according to evaluation
- LOC Rotterdam (stating round 3)

Communication:

- Project Partnership Agreement
- Division of overall project cost
- Financial management and reporting structure

Specific actions:

- Planning onboarding sessions
- Assigned mentor (Urša Mlekuš)
- Schedule mentor meetings
- The first onboarding session 7 may
- Pilot repository.
- Pilot contact list
- Pilot Presentation
- Pilot website
- Project canvas / Data cooperation Canvas

Introduction package:

- Training Smart Cities Trends, data spaces and AI
- European data strategy and dataspaces
- Introduction to the DS4SSCC Blueprint

Governance package:

- Governance Common purpose and balances power dynamics
- Creating win-win solutions all stakeholders in your dataspace
- Regulatory compliance and safeguards

Technical package:

- Introduction to MIMs
- Mapping and compliance with DSSC and MIMs
- The basics of technical building blocks for data spaces
- The High-level architecture for SCDS

In-person bootcamp Ljubljana:

- Data space offering and problem analysis
- Three technical pillars, Q&A and evolution discussion
- Business model & Governance for sustainability
- ODRL implementation and technical Governance
- Verifiable credentials in Data Spaces
- Pilot presentations
- Federation concepts
- Building federated business & Governance models
- Federation theory, semantic Theory, Data models
- Federation pitch presentation
- SIMPL demo and practical overview
- Set of presentations
- Interview
- Blueprint evolution (D2.3)

3. Retrospective

Below some general findings looking back at the Onboarding process

3.1 Organization

The onboarding meetings, templates that were shared and the deadlines that are part of them, were all very well organized. There where reminders when needed and outcomes and presentations were all shared, which was highly appreciated by all members of our consortium.

3.2 Amount of information shared

Looking at the amount of information (slides, meetings etc) that is shared during this onboarding period, it can be summarized as 'extensive'. This gave all partners a good insight to the sometimes very detailed extend of all thought / range of ideas.

3.3 Not all is set in stone

Although lots of information is shared, we also found that (luckily) not all is set in stone. As an example, we were very pleased with the new version of the Blueprint (d2.3 Blueprint evolution20252000', which showed the latest insight, gives a good overview and makes lots of parts more practical applicable.

3.4 Difference between concepts, small exercise, practical solutions

It was sometimes, at the beginning, unclear for us if matters that were discussed were mainly concepts (to be validated), small exercises (that need a lot of attention or development), or practical proven and applicable solutions (immediately usable for us as Pilots).
Examples of these were Ishare, Simpl-Open and EDC connector, of which we upfront had different ideas.

3.5 Impact on our plans / proposal

Because of all the knowledge that was shared, and the things we learned, we also had to spend a rather large amount of time discussing the impact of this on our project, and our proposed way of working. Not on the main deliverables, but on the practical solutions to be used and things to be done to realize these deliverables.

In our proposal we have put a large amount of effort and focus on realising technical solutions that will help Dataspaces for Digital twins evolve. But the Business and organisation Buildings blocks, although partly included, did not get the same amount of attention (and time and budget).
So going ahead, we need to see how much of these buildings blocks we can include and to what level of detail.

3.6 Time consuming

Our final finding is that during the first 6 months of the Pilot project, a large amount of time (more than expected upfront), has been spent on the onboarding, and adjusting to the impact of things we learned during onboarding and the internal meetings to find suitable ways forward for all the consortium partners.

This means that during the coming months we need to change focus more towards an energetic execution the project plan to make sure the new and adjusted planning can be adhered.

About the European Data Space for Smart Communities

The European Data Space for Smart Communities (DS4SSCC-DEP) initiative is a pivotal deployment following the preparatory action for a Data Space for Sustainable and Smart Cities and Communities (DS4SSCC). Emphasising sustainability aspects and diversity in communities, DS4SSCC developed a multi-stakeholder data governance scheme, created a blueprint for the European DS4SSCC, delivered priority datasets, and developed a roadmap towards a mature DS4SSCC.

DS4SSCC-DEP's vision revolves around creating a well-governed federated territorial, place-based data space for smart communities available for developers and infrastructure providers, aligning with the prospects outlined in Europe's Digital Decade objectives. This approach distinguishes itself from sectoral data spaces by encompassing diverse domains, and underpinning governance across all levels of society. The key objectives of the project are:

- **Objective 1: Establishing a Federated and Innovative Data Space**. This phase focuses on creating a large-scale data space controlled by public data holders, ensuring alignment with the Smart Middleware Platform and broader data space ecosystems. It also aims to offer middleware service solutions facilitating data sharing and management while refining the blueprint based on gained experience.
- **Objective 2: Pilots and Refinement of the Data Space Blueprint**. Through 10-12 cross-sectoral data pilots in various EU communities, this objective aims to validate and refine the data space blueprint. Using common high-value data sets, it seeks to create added value by combining data from various domains, contributing to the sustainability plan, and minimising infrastructure investment.
- **Objective 3: Fostering Innovation and Ecosystem Alignment**. Engaging stakeholders, compliance with sector-specific legislation, establishing links with Horizon Europe missions, creating services available via trusted application catalogues, and enhancing ethical considerations and AI-enabled local solutions constitute the focus of this objective.

DS4SSCC-DEP, building upon established European networks, aims to significantly contribute to the sustainability goals of European citizens. It emphasises co-creation, standardisation, business models, strategies for data spaces, and envisions a federated platform.

DS4SSCC-DEP consortium includes the following partners: