

Enabling a data-informed public sector:

*From hype to action using
the **Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI)***



Maria Claudia BODINO, BDTI project officer – European Commission
mariaclaudia.bodino@ec.europa.eu



Business Owner:
DG CNECT

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Service Provider:
DG DIGIT

Directorate-General for Informatics

Road Map



1

Policy context

2

BDTI in a nutshell

- Its context and why use it

3

BDTI in practice

- Access and overview of the BDTI portal
- Concrete application of the BDTI

4

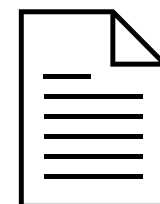
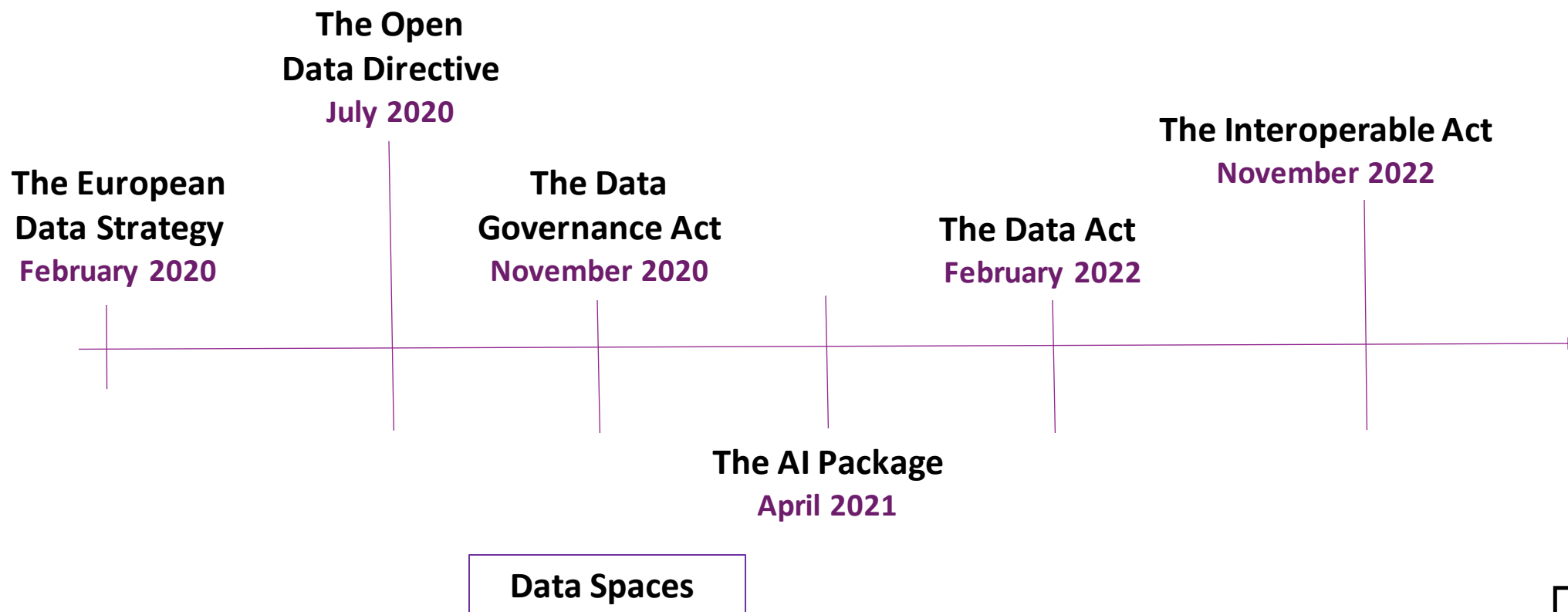
BDTI's community

- Developing the BDTI community and how can you help us



Policy context

Policy timeline





2

BDTI in a nutshell

- Its context and why use it

Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI) in a nutshell: its context

The BDTI is funded by the the **Digital Europe Program (DEP)**, an EU funding programme (€7.5 bn) focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations.

The DEP provides strategic funding in **five crucial areas**:

High performance computing

Cybersecurity

Artificial intelligence

(Cloud, data and AI)

Advanced digital skills

Deployment and wide use of digital technologies



What is the Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI) ?



Six months free of charge service
for EU public administrations *



Ready-to-use
data analytics stack and support



Cloud platform based on
open-source tools



To help the public sector to derive insights from data
and accelerate transition towards data-informed decision making.

Not only for big data, for public sector in general (i.e. open data)

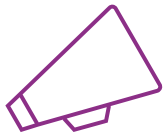
Who is the Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI) for?



European Public Administrations
All European Public Administrations at **local, regional and national level** can independently apply for a BDTI pilot project



Ecosystem with **academia** and **private sector**
Academia, spin-off, startups can apply for pilot projects as long as there is a **clear collaboration** with a Public Administration which will be the main point of contact for the project (**Master/PhD, GovTech startups**)



Are you working for a public administration in need of infrastructure for data analytics?

Contact us:

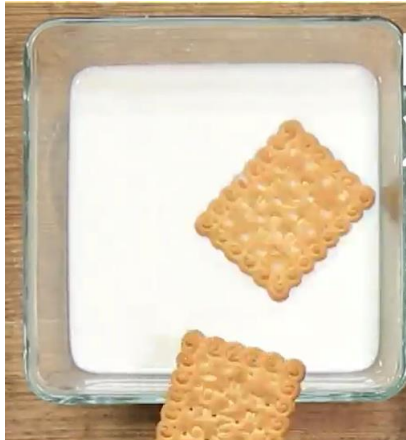
EC-BDTI-PILOTS@ec.europa.eu



Why use the BDTI ?



Data → Information → Presentation → Knowledge



You have the key ingredients (datasets),
we provide you the best tool to generate amazing recipes.

Challenges

2

Legal, technological, organisational, cultural, ethical, behavioural and institutional challenges.

To mention some of them:

- Lack of **data skills** – limited understanding of data's potential and its value proposition
- Data sharing and **SILOS**
 - **PPP – smart cities...**
- Lack of high-**quality data – poor quality**
- Lack of effective **data governance**
 - Data stewards
- Data discovery and re-use for human and **machines**
 - **FAIR principles**
 - Findable
 - Accessible
 - **Interoperable** – Cross border and cross domain dimensions
 - Reusable - Licenses



Why use the BDTI ?



Benefit of six months free of charge service, including **advisory and technical** support during the duration of the pilot



Experiment with data analytics using high **performance infrastructure** that leverages the power of the **elastic cloud**



Receive guidance to move from a pilot to a **production-ready** process – **EXIT package**



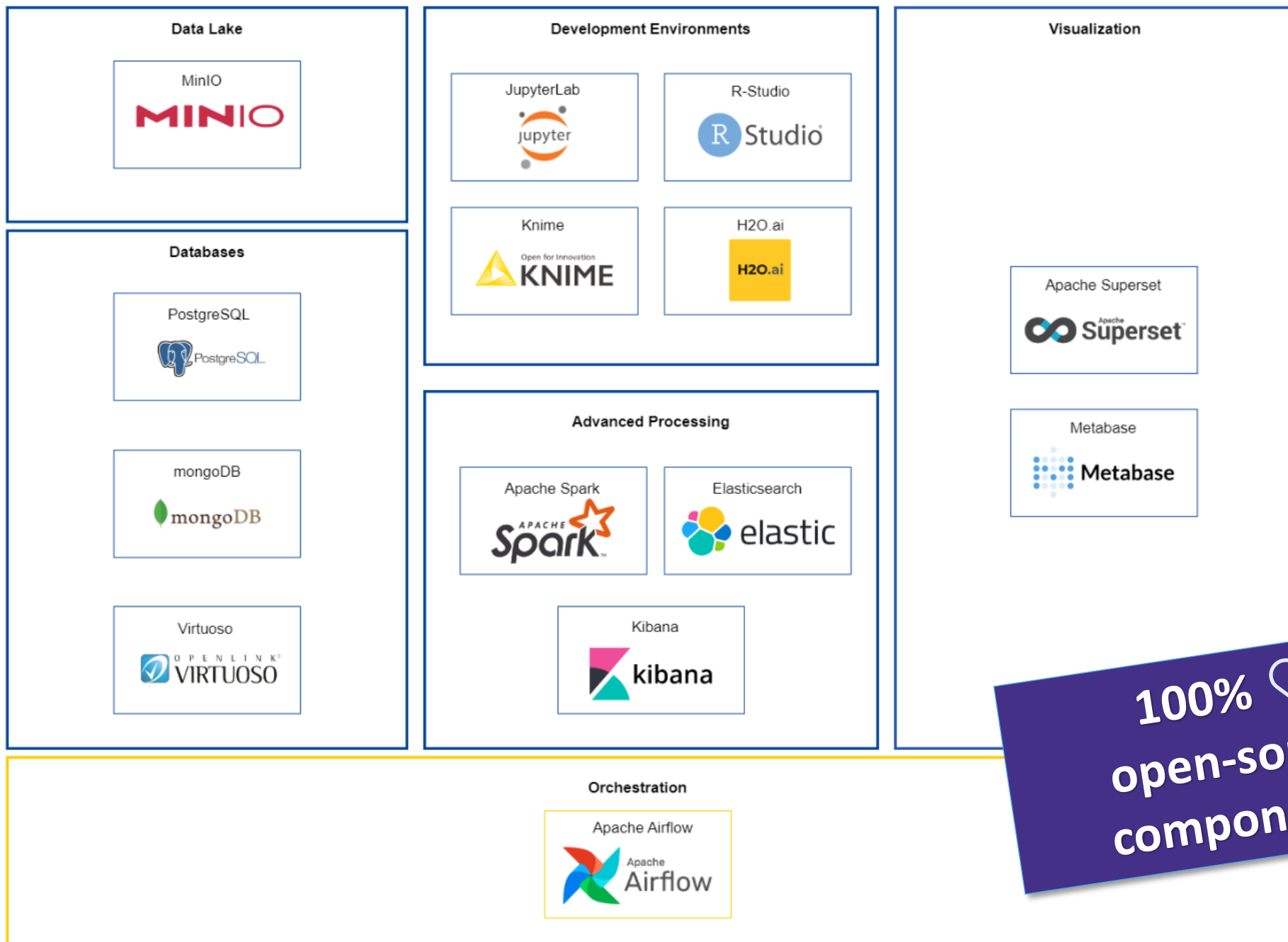
Test your idea → Extract value → Create knowledge

Big Data Test Infrastructure Objectives

2

- Increase the easy accessibility, **interoperability, quality** and **usability** of public sector information in compliance with the requirement of the **Open Data Directive**
- Boost the **re-use and combination of open public data** across the EU for the development of information products and services, including AI applications.
- High Value Datasets – Open Data Directive
- Testing **Business-to-Government (B2G)** data sharing collaborations for the **public good**
- Data Space Support Centre: [explore and experiment with Big Data](#)
- BDTI provides a safe **testing environment to run big data experiments** for data space customers.





100% ♥
open-source
components

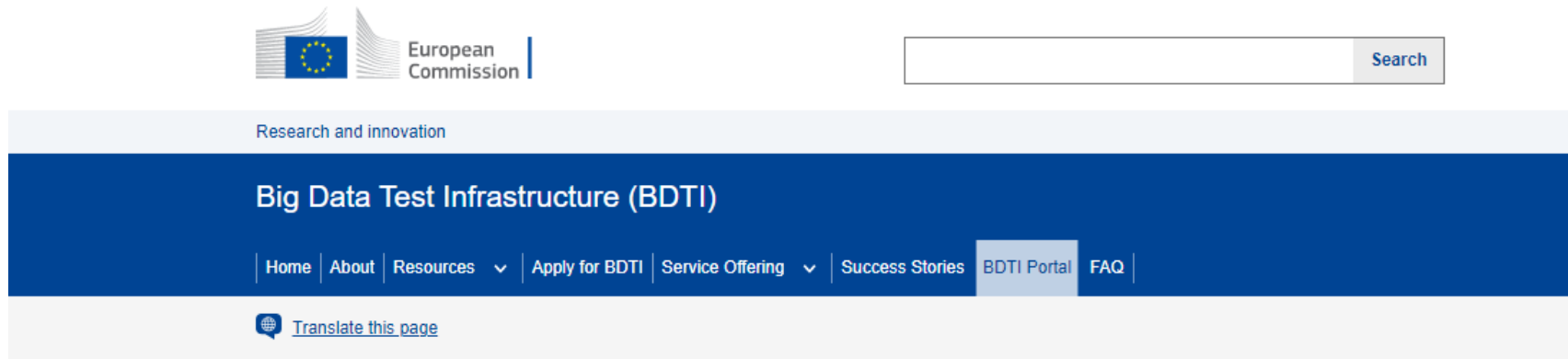


3

BDTI in practice

- Access and overview of the BDTI portal
- Concrete application of the BDTI

Access to BDTI portal directly from your browser (EU Login integration)



Home > BDTI Portal

BDTI Portal

The BDTI portal is a web application which allows users to easily deploy and manage containerized data science workloads. In this section, you can access the portal and find documentation about the portal.

Access the BDTI Portal

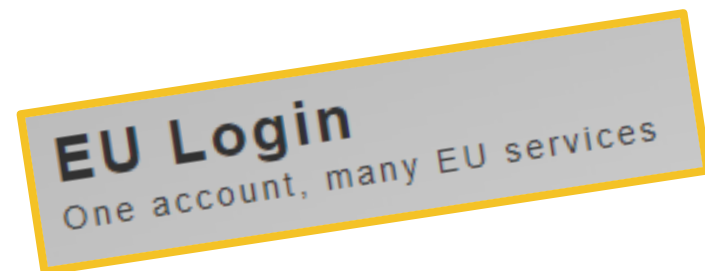
Disclaimer: The BDTI portal is only available to users who have a BDTI pilot.

The user documentation for the BDTI portal can be found [here](#).

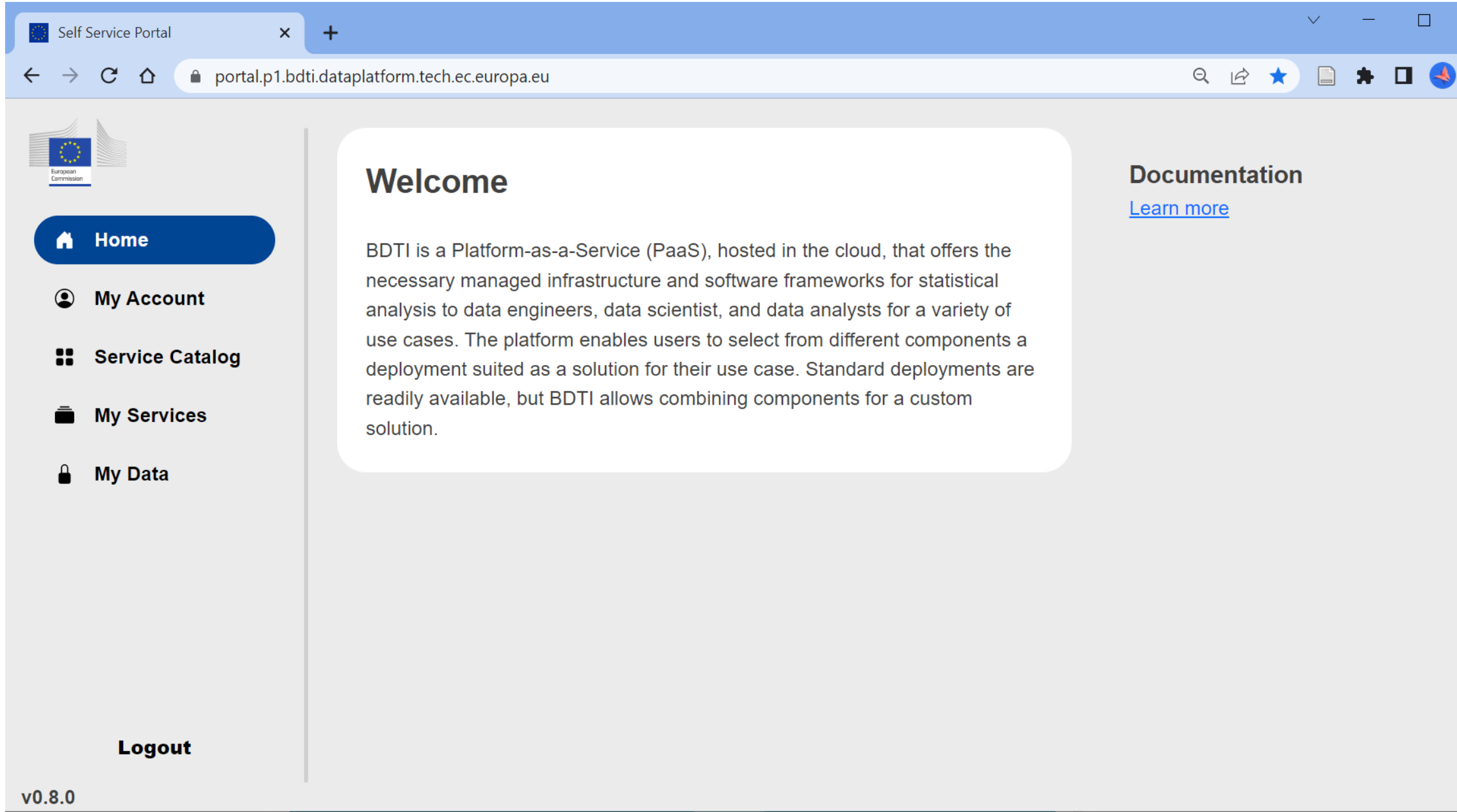
[Access the BDTI Portal](#)



For teams part of BDTI pilots




The BDTI portal





The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title 'Self Service Portal'. The address bar displays the URL 'portal.p1.bdti.dataplatform.tech.ec.europa.eu'. The page features a sidebar on the left with the European Commission logo and a navigation menu with the following items: 'Home' (highlighted with a house icon), 'My Account' (with a person icon), 'Service Catalog' (with a grid icon), 'My Services' (with a briefcase icon), and 'My Data' (with a lock icon). At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'Logout' button. The main content area has a 'Welcome' heading followed by a paragraph describing BDTI as a Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) for statistical analysis. On the right side, there is a 'Documentation' section with a 'Learn more' link. The version number 'v0.8.0' is displayed at the bottom left of the page.


Self Service Portal


portal.p1.bdti.dataplatform.tech.ec.europa.eu


 European Commission

 **Home**

 **My Account**

 **Service Catalog**

 **My Services**

 **My Data**

Logout

Welcome

BDTI is a Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS), hosted in the cloud, that offers the necessary managed infrastructure and software frameworks for statistical analysis to data engineers, data scientist, and data analysts for a variety of use cases. The platform enables users to select from different components a deployment suited as a solution for their use case. Standard deployments are readily available, but BDTI allows combining components for a custom solution.


Documentation
[Learn more](#)

v0.8.0

The BDTI portal: My Services

Self Service Portal

portal.p1.bdti.dataplatform.tech.ec.europa.eu/my-services



Home

My Account

Service Catalog

My Services

My Data

Logout

Service Deployments

Name	Group	Status	Type	Date	Sharing	
LeonJupyter_6	DSL0003	ACTIVE	JUPYTERLAB	Tue Nov 15 2022	SHARED	<div>TerminateOpen</div>
Knime_demo	DSL0003	ACTIVE	KNIME	Fri Apr 28 2023	SHARED	<div>TerminateOpen</div>
SharedSuperset_5	DSL0003	ACTIVE	SUPERSET	Wed Jan 11 2023	SHARED	<div>TerminateOpen</div>
SharedPost_1	DSL0003	ACTIVE	POSTGRESQL	Tue Nov 29 2022	SHARED	<div>TerminateCopy</div>

The BDTI portal: service catalogue

Self Service Portal

https://portal.p1.bdti.dataplatform.tech.ec.europa.eu/service-catalog

Service Catalog

Airflow v1.6.0

Description
Airflow is a platform created by the community to programmatically author, schedule and monitor workflows.

[Launch](#)

Apache Superset v1.0

Description
Apache Superset is a modern data exploration and visualization platform. It is fast, lightweight, intuitive, and loaded with options that make it easy for users of all skill sets to explore and visualize their data, from simple line charts to highly detailed geospatial charts.

[Launch](#)

ElasticSearch v7.17.3

Description
Elasticsearch is the distributed, RESTful search and analytics engine at the heart of the Elastic Stack.

[Launch](#)

H2O-3 v36.1.1

Description
H2O is an in-memory platform for distributed, scalable machine learning. H2O uses familiar interfaces like R, Python, Scala, Java, JSON and the Flow notebook/web interface, and works seamlessly with big data technologies like Hadoop and Spark.

[Launch](#)

Jupyterlab (all-spark-notebook) v.3.4.2

Description
The Jupyter Notebook is a web application for creating and sharing documents that contain code, visualizations, and text. It can be used for data science, statistical modeling, machine learning, and much more. Used for spark.

[Launch](#)

Jupyterlab v3.2.8

Description
The Jupyter Notebook is a web application for creating and sharing documents that contain code, visualizations, and text. It can be used for data science, statistical modeling, machine learning, and much more.

[Launch](#)

Kibana v7.17.3

Description
Kibana is your window into the Elastic Stack. Specifically, it is a browser-based analytics and search dashboard for Elasticsearch.

[Launch](#)

Knime v4.5.3

Description
KNIME Analytics Platform is the open source software for creating data science. Intuitive, open, and continuously integrating new developments, KNIME makes understanding data and designing data science workflows and reusable components accessible to everyone.

[Launch](#)

Metabase v0.43.3

Description
Metabase sets up in five minutes, connecting to your database, and bringing its data to life in beautiful visualizations. An intuitive interface makes data exploration feel like second nature—opening data up for everyone, not just analysts and developers.

[Launch](#)

MinIO

Description
MinIO offers high-performance, S3 compatible object storage. Native to Kubernetes, MinIO is the only object storage suite available on every public cloud, every Kubernetes distribution, the private cloud and the edge. MinIO is software-defined and is 100% open source under GNU AGPL v3.

[Launch](#)

MongoDB v4.4.13

Description
MongoDB® is a relational open source NoSQL database. Easy to use, it stores data in JSON-like documents. Automated scalability and high-performance. Ideal for developing cloud native applications.

[Launch](#)

PgAdmin4 v6.8

Description
PgAdmin is the most popular and feature rich Open Source administration and development platform for PostgreSQL, the most advanced Open Source database in the world.

[Launch](#)

Postgresql v14.2.0

Description
PostgreSQL is a powerful, open source object-relational database system with over 30 years of active development that has earned it a strong reputation for reliability, feature robustness, and performance.

[Launch](#)

RStudio v4.1.2

Description
An integrated development environment for R and Python, with a console, syntax-highlighting editor that supports direct code execution, and tools for plotting, history, debugging and workspace management.

[Launch](#)

Spark .3.2.1

Description
Apache Spark is an open-source unified analytics engine for large-scale data processing. Spark provides an interface for programming clusters with implicit data parallelism and fault tolerance.

[Launch](#)

Virtuoso v7.2.7

Description
OpenLink Virtuoso is a next-generation Universal Server that facilitates the development and deployment of a new generation of Enterprise-wide, Internet, Intranet, and Extranet-based solutions, transcending prevalent enterprise challenge areas such as Disparate Databases and Data Sources, Web Service Composition, and Business Process Management.

[Launch](#)

[Logout](#)

v0.8.0

BDTI Demonstrator: Towards a data-Informed Government Spending



Goal:

Show how the BDTI can be used by different users (at different levels of complexity) to **derive** insights from government spendings to take data-informed actions



A user-centered approach:

- Elena and Daniel, public servants
- Low data literacy skills
- **Problem:** high government spending in public lighting
- **Solution:** how to optimize public lighting to reduce government spending

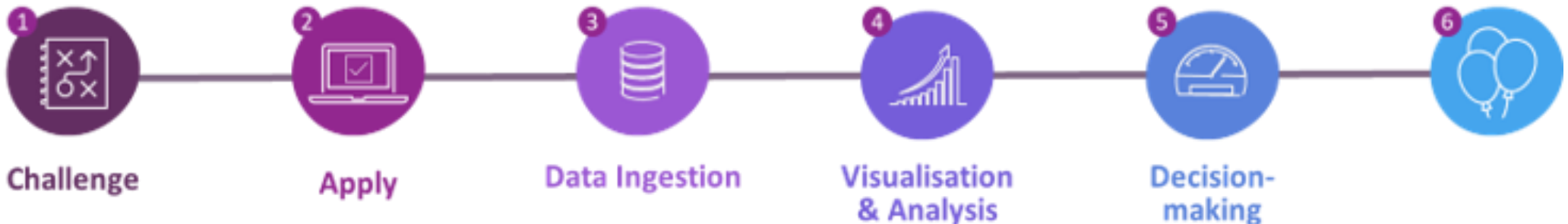
BDTI Demonstrator and KNIME: Data-Informed Government Spending



Elena

- Observes high government spending reported in the news
- Uses Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to **extract relevant information** from a folder of PDF invoices from the Energy Supplier.
- She then **combines this output with other data** (.csv, .xlsx) on her government's spending.
- She feeds the consolidated dataset to a relational database that she can access with her dashboarding service.
- Elena **visualizes** the enriched government spending **data** in a **Dashboard**.
- She analyses the charts and discovers that her government is spending **more on public lighting** than other comparable municipalities.

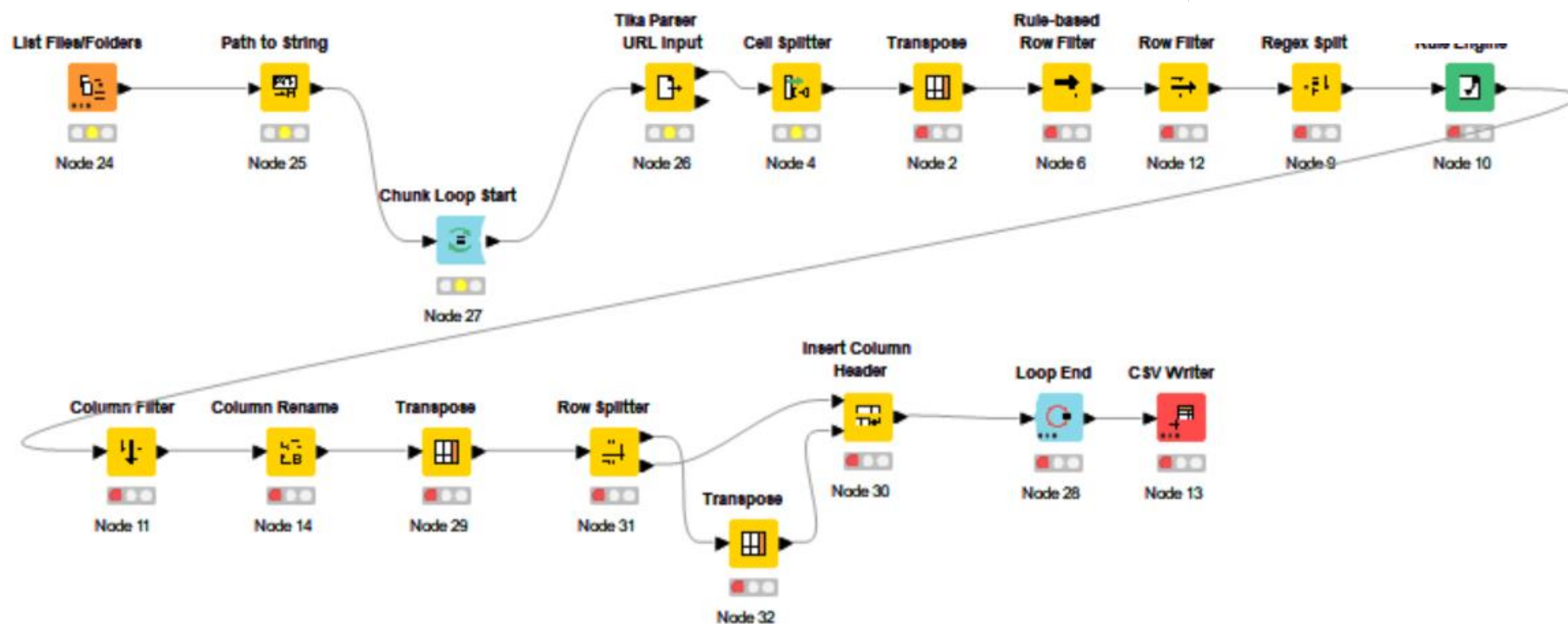
(Services used: KNIME, PostgreSQL, Apache Superset)



BDTI Demonstrator: KNIME Workflow

*3: KNIME_OCR_multiple_pdf X

This Knime workflow connects to a folder containing PDF invoices. It loops over the invoices one at a time to apply OCR. When all invoices are read, the retrieved parameters are stored into a single csv file. Right-click a node and select configure to see what the node does. The node called Tika Parser URL Input is the node that performs the actual optical character recognition.



Dún Looghair-Rathdown Country Co.
2 Marine Rd
A96 K6C9 Dublin
Tel: +353 1 205 4700
VAT No: IR828898103810

Invoice

Ref No.: 1001002
Invoice Date: 01-03-2022
Expiry Date: 01-06-2022

PERIOD	DESCRIPTION
Feb 2022	Public Lighting
Feb 2022	Facilities
Feb 2022	Transport

TOTAL EXCL. VAT	
TOTAL VAT	

Invoice

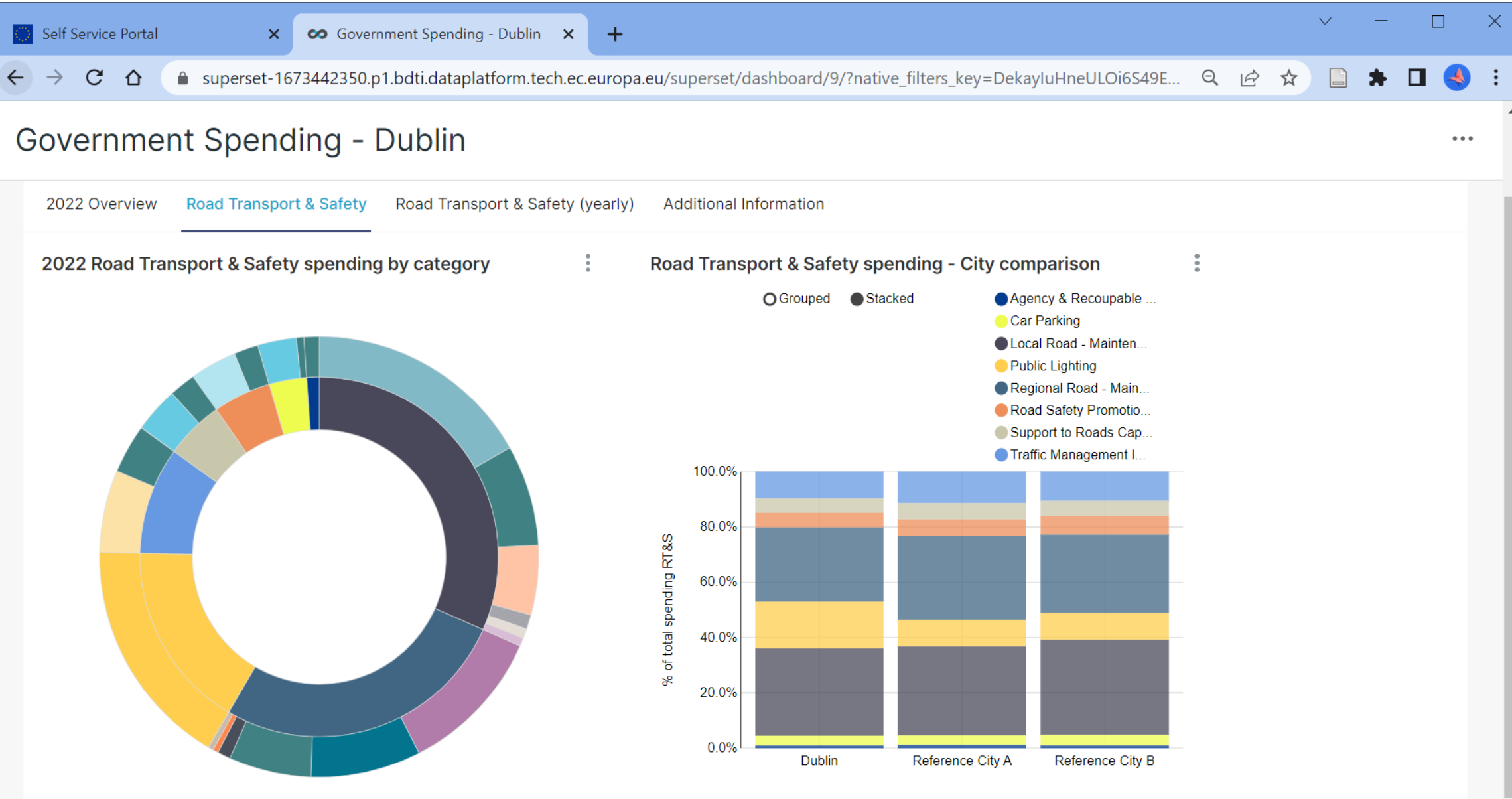
Ref No.: 1001002
Invoice Date: 01-03-2022
Expiry Date: 01-06-2022

MONTH	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	TAXES	VAT	TOTAL
Aug 2021	Public Lighting	1000	€ 17%	22%	€ 1,220.00
Aug 2021	Facilities	500	€ 17%	11%	€ 567.50
Aug 2021	Transport	300	€ 17%	22%	€ 364.10
TOTAL EXCL. VAT					€ 1,861.60
TOTAL VAT					€ 322.60
TOTAL INCL. VAT					€ 2,184.20

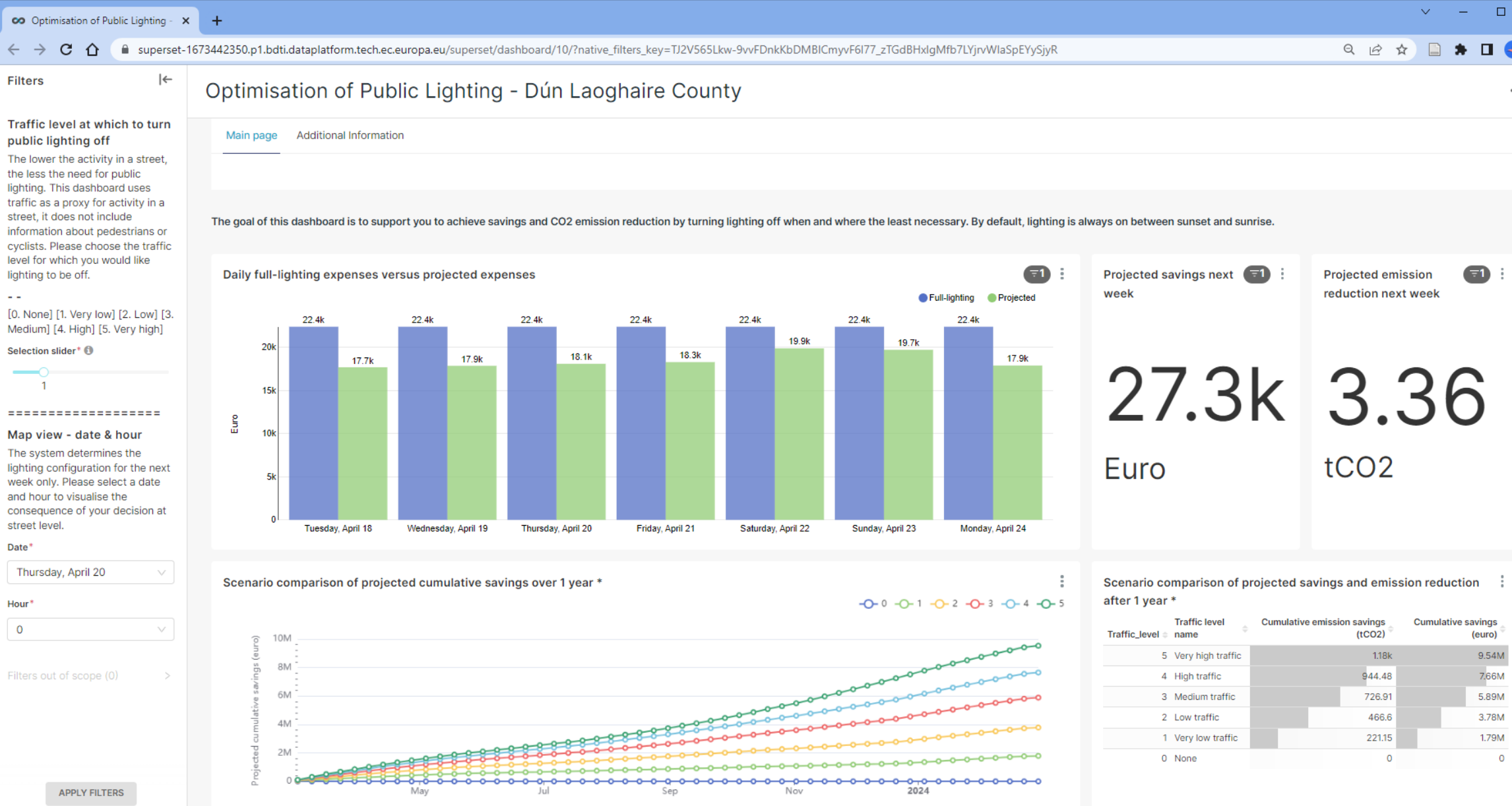
Notes and footnotes:
Please refer to the invoice and its details.

Notes and footnotes:
Please refer to the invoice and its details.

BDTI Demonstrator: Dashboard



BDTI Demonstrator: Dashboard





4

BDTI's community

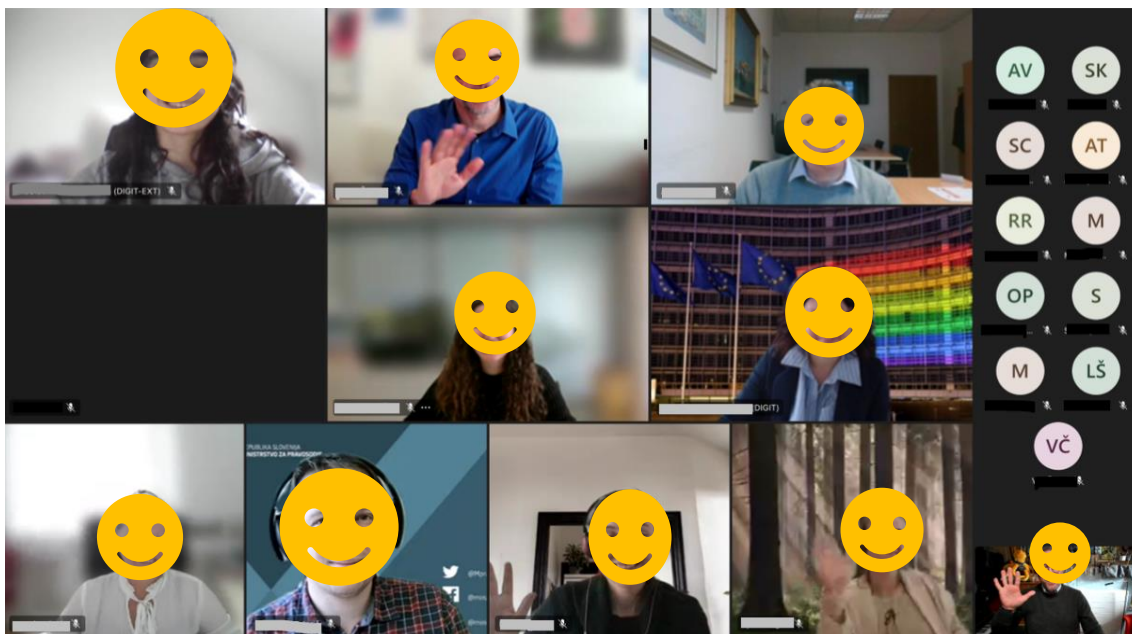
- Developing the BDTI community and how can you help us

4

BDTI National Information Sessions



Goal: introduce BDTI, learn about data analytics projects, develop your data analytics community!



BDTI Information Session (April 2022) in Slovenia in collaboration with the Slovenian Ministry of Digital Transformation

National information centre/Nacionalno informacijsko središče

Context		Objective		
<p>Slovenska turistična organizacija projekt izveja v okviru reforme NIO v želji pomagati deležnikom pri podatkovno podanem odločanju.</p>		<p>Cilj projekta je vzpostavitev Nacionalnega informacijskega središča, ki bo merilo učinke turizma na različnih ravneh ter pomagal pri geografski razporeditvi in usmerjanju turističnih tokov. Cilj oblikovanja središča je tudi pospeševanje zelenega in digitalnega prehoda ter nadgradnje Zelene sheme slovenskega turizma.</p> <p>NIS bo edinstveno podatkovno in informacijsko središče v katerem se bodo zbirali in obdelovali lokalni in globalni podatki, relevantni za turizem, s ciljem najprej oshavnih, nato pa tudi naprednih analiz za podatkovno podarito odločanje ter avig dodane vrednosti skozi vse zebre trajnosti v turizmu.</p>		
Data's added value <p>Podatkovni viri so ključ do uspeha projekta.</p> <p>Ključno bo sodelovanje z nevladnimi viri podatkov (SURS, AJPES, MOPE, NCUP, BS, ...)</p> <p>Trenutno je na voljo že kar nekaj podatkov, ki po se v večini zbirajo na mesečni ali letni ravni.</p>	Data's availability <p>Izziv je frekvenca in raven podatkov, ki so trenutno na voljo.</p> <p>Cilj je pridobivanje dnevnih podatkov, ki v večji meri niso na voljo.</p>	Risks and Issues with relation to data <p>Določeni podatki niso na voljo, zato bo potreben zbiranje alternativnih podatkovnih virov.</p> <p>Alternativni podatkovni viri so običajno zelo dragi, hkrati pa ne dajejo vedno najboljše informacije oziroma niso najbolj točni.</p>	Data's processing <p>V prvi fazi je potrebna identifikacija primerov uporabe, ki bodo na voljo v središču.</p> <p>Po identifikaciji teh, bo potrebna tudi izbira ustreznega orodja, ki bo na enem mestu omogočalo tako preproste prikaze kot tudi napredne analize.</p>	Data skills <p>Za izvedbo projekta je bil izbran zunanji izvajalec, saj naprednih znanj znotraj organizacije nimamo.</p>
<p>DODATNI PREDLOGI?</p>		<p>PRILOŽNOSTI?</p>		<p>PREDLOGI / IZZIVI?</p>
Solution <p>Combine what you've learned from the elements above into a statement describing your solution.</p>				
<p>you can type here you can type here you can type here you can type here you can type here you can type here you can type here you can type here you can type here you can type here</p>				

BDTI Canva used in Mural during the BDTI Information Session in Slovenia



The BDTI Canva

by the BDTI Team

The BDTI Canva aims to help you build a strong data use case through a series of questions.

For more information, visit the [BDTI website](#)

Contact us by email:
EC-BDTI-PILOTS@ec.europa.eu

Context:

Who are you? Who are your stakeholders?



Objective(s):

What is the problem you are trying to address?
What is your timeframe?



Data's added value:

Which information helps you address the problem? From which sector and or domain?

Data's availability:

Does the data you need exist? If it doesn't exist, can you collect it? From whom can you get the data you need? Can you reuse the data? What license applies to the data you'd like to use? How is the quality of the data you'd like to use? Are the different datasets interoperable? Do you know how to connect the dots?

Data's risk(s):

What could go wrong when using data to address this objective? Are there legal and ethical considerations to make? Are you dealing with personal data?

Data's processing:

What do you need to gather, process and analyze the data (i.e., tools, software, computing power, ...)? Do you already have them? If you do not, where can you get them (e.g., applying to the BDTI)?

Data skills:

What data literacy and skills do you need (i.e., data engineering, data analysis, data science, data visualization)? Do you already have these available within your team/organization?

Your solution

Combine what you've learned from the elements above into a statement describing your solution



Who used it already?



CONSELLERIA DE SANITAT (CS) - Text Mining

Conselleria de Sanitat, the Health Public Administration of the Comunidad Valenciana Regional Government, needed a tool capable of analysing and extract knowledge from the huge quantity of scientific clinical articles coming from different sources (i.e. PubMed.gov, Covid-19 related clinical articles).



Advanced **data visualization** and **text mining** tools to help **extracting knowledge contained in the documents**, supporting clinicians and managers in their clinical practices and day-to-day work.

EU CONVALESCENT PLASMA DATABASE – Data sharing

The European Blood Alliance is working together with the European Commission (DG SANTE) to create and manage an **EU-wide open-access platform** that collects data to support a study on **Covid-19 convalescent plasma therapy**. The aim of the study is to assess in which conditions the convalescent plasma treatment is most effective, in order to take data driven decisions on the therapy and focus the efforts of the research in the most promising directions.



A ready-to-use, virtual environment in which **data collected through a custom-built website** are ingested and anonymized, to be then analyzed with advanced data visualization and analytical tools. Initially, only donation data were processed, then the scope was increased to capture the **end-to-end of blood plasma, from donation to patient/clinical trial**.

CITY OF FLORENCE – Mobility data

The main goal of the Municipality is to perform a **cross correlation between the multiple datasets** available within the city to understand how people were and are moving between the different districts, to then derive precious insights about mobility the most and about **how services can be redesigned to foster cultural activities and events**.



Predictive, descriptive and time-series analysis on multiple datasets collected **before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic** such as: public Wi-Fi sensors, parking and geo-referenced data of people movements (i.e. tourists).

4

Who used it already?



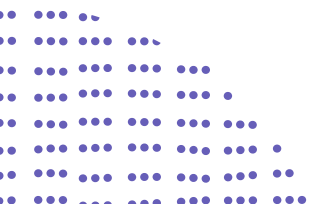
The vision: Public Procurement Data Spaces

Every year in the EU, over 250 000 public authorities spend around €2 trillion (around 13.6% of GDP) on the purchase of services, goods, and supplies. EU directives govern procurement contracts above certain thresholds to ensure the transparency of the procedure.

The Public Procurement Data Space (PPDS) will:

- connect European databases, including TED data on public procurement, and national procurement data sets available in national portals
- facilitate access for companies and SMEs to public procurement procedures across the EU.
- increase transparency, integrity, and accountability of public spending while fighting corruption and collusion.
- generate key insights for policy-making

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/public-procurement/digital-procurement/public-procurement-data-space-ppds_en






Who used it already?

Semantic Knowledge Graphs for Distributed Data Spaces



The Public Procurement Pilot Experience

Semantic Knowledge Graphs for Distributed Data Spaces: The Public Procurement Pilot Experience

Cecile Guasch¹ , Giorgia Lodi² , and Sander Van Dooren¹ 

¹ European Commission, DG DIGIT, Brussels, Belgium
{cecile.guasch,Sander.VAN-DOOREN}@ext.ec.europa.eu

² Institute of Cognitive Sciences and Technologies of the Italian National Research Council (ISTC-CNR), Rome, Italy
giorgia.lodi@cnr.it

Abstract. This paper presents the experience gained in the context of a European pilot project funded by the ISA2 programme. It aims at constructing a semantic knowledge graph that establishes a distributed data space for public procurement. We describe the results obtained, the follow up actions and the main lessons learnt from the construction of the knowledge graph. This latter requires to support different data governance scenarios: some partners control, with their own tools, the building process of their portion of the knowledge graph. Other partners participate in the pilot by providing only their open CSV/XML/JSON datasets, in which case transformations are required. These are performed on the infrastructure made available by the European Big Data Test Infrastructure (BDTI). The paper introduces the design and implementation of the knowledge graph construction process within such a BDTI infrastructure. By instantiating an OWL ontology created for this purpose, we are able to provide a declarative description of the whole workflow required to transform input data into RDF output data, which form the knowledge graph. The declarative description is therefore used to provide instructions to a workflow engine we use (Apache Airflow) for knowledge graph construction purposes.

Guasch, C., Lodi, G., & Dooren, S. V. (2022, October). Semantic Knowledge Graphs for Distributed Data Spaces: The Public Procurement Pilot Experience. In *The Semantic Web—ISWC 2022: 21st International Semantic Web Conference, Virtual Event, October 23–27, 2022, Proceedings* (pp. 753–769). Cham: Springer International Publishing. <https://iswc2022.semanticweb.org/index.php/accepted-papers/>



How to apply:



Get familiar with the [BDTI service on our website](#)



Brainstorm on your data analytics project using our [BDTI Canva](#) and then fill in the [BDTI template request form](#)



Submit your pilot request (template) by email: EC-BDTI-PILOTS@ec.europa.eu



Meet with us to elaborate on your use case



Pilot Project is approved if:
Brings value,
can be done in 6 months,
sufficient resources available (skills, team, data)



Your test environment is set up



You can start piloting and create value!

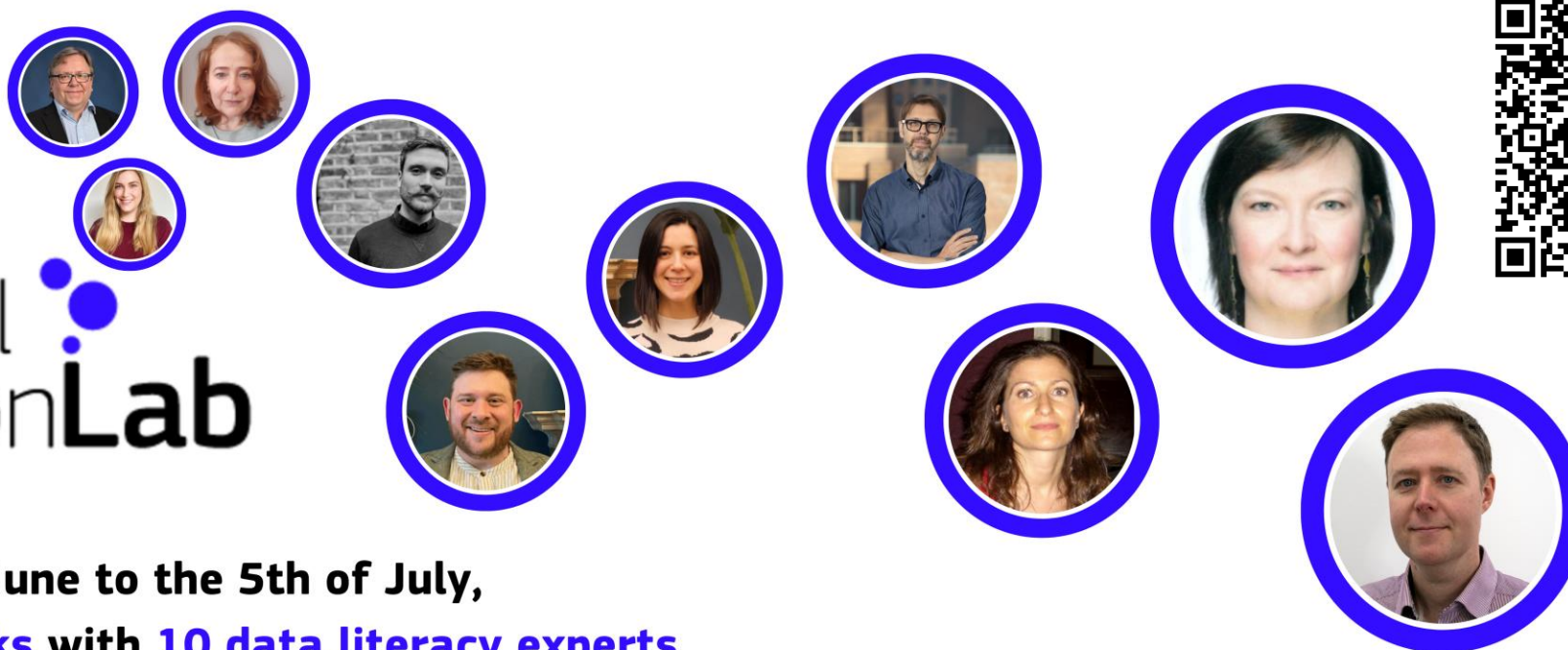
Developing data skills

iTalks Series:

'Exploring **data skills** initiatives to foster public sector innovation'



Digital
innovation**Lab**



From the 14th of June to the 5th of July,
join us for **six iTalks** with **10 data literacy experts**
to learn about data skills initiatives for the public sector



Thank you for your attention!

BDTI website



BDTI's Joinup page
(subscribe ;-)



mariaclaudia.bodino@ec.europa.eu

EC-BDTI-PILOTS@ec.europa.eu

References



Academic references:

Guasch, C., Lodi, G., & Dooren, S. V. (2022, October). Semantic Knowledge Graphs for Distributed Data Spaces: The Public Procurement Pilot Experience. In The Semantic Web—ISWC 2022: 21st International Semantic Web Conference, Virtual Event, October 23–27, 2022, Proceedings (pp. 753-769). Cham: Springer International Publishing. <https://iswc2022.semanticweb.org/index.php/accepted-papers/>

Mergel, I., Rethemeyer, R. K., & Isett, K. (2016). Big data in public affairs. *Public Administration Review*, 76(6), 928-937.

Pirog, M. A. (2014). Data will drive innovation in public policy and management research in the next decade. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 537-543.

Tan, E., & Cromptvoets, J. (Eds.). (2022). *The new digital era governance: How new digital technologies are shaping public governance*. Wageningen Academic Publishers.

European Commission websites:

https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-data-strategy_en

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/legislation-open-data>

https://commission.europa.eu/publications/interoperable-europe-act-proposal_en

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/data-governance-act>

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-approach-artificial-intelligence>

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1113

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

<https://dssc.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/DSSC-Data-Spaces-Glossary-v1.0.pdf>

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/staff-working-document-data-spaces>