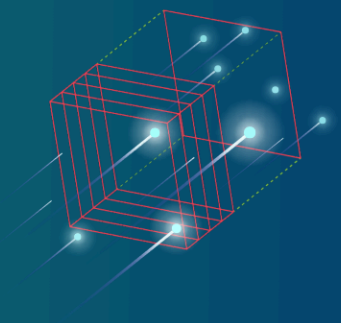
EUROPEAN BIG DATA VALUE FORUM

30 SEP – 1 OCT | GALWAY - IRELAND



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i-Spaces: connecting Europe's data and AI innovators

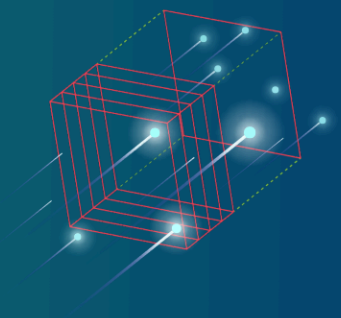
9 October 2026, Galway, Ireland — The **European Big Data Value Forum (EBDVF) 2026**, the flagship event of the European data and AI research and innovation community, hosted the annual BDVA i-Spaces ceremony. On 1 October, the Big Data Value Association (BDVA) welcomed four new organisations into the i-Spaces community after they obtained the BDVA i-Space label for the first time: Brightbeam, ÁGORA Data Lab, MADE and CARTIFactory.

The new i-Spaces were officially welcomed by BDVA President Thomas Hahn and BDVA Vice-President Laure Le Bars. They join 24 established i-Spaces, bringing the community to 28 hubs across 17 European countries.

Brightbeam is an Irish AI company founded in 2023 and based in Waterford, which helps organisations in regulated sectors such as biopharma, advanced manufacturing and financial services move AI from pilots into everyday operations. The company works as one organisation with two businesses: Intelligence, which develops its AI platform, applied research and reusable methods, and Integration, which deploys and embeds AI solutions in client operations. As an i-Space, Brightbeam brings this combination of applied research and real-world deployment to the community.

ÁGORA Data Lab is the data engineering and data science centre of the University of Málaga, hosted by its Institute for Software Engineering and Software Technology (ITIS). It deploys and operates data spaces, including ÁGORA and EDAAn, and is a node of SENDA, the Spanish national ecosystem for data spaces. ÁGORA Data Lab supports organisations from early proofs of concept to large-scale data processing, offering data space technologies, pilot projects, technology monitoring and specialised training, with a strong presence in the agri-food sector.

MADE is the Competence Center for Industry 4.0 based in Milan, established in 2019 as a public-private partnership under Italy's Industry 4.0 Plan. With a network of 60 partners from industry, academia and institutions, MADE helps companies, especially SMEs, through their digital and sustainable transformation. Its learning factory covers more than 2,500 square metres in Milan, with further sites in Bergamo and Pavia, and hosts 120 demonstrators of technologies such as AI, digital twins, collaborative robotics, cybersecurity and data



platforms. In 2025 alone, MADE completed over 150 projects and delivered 190 training courses.

CARTIFactory is coordinated by CARTIF, a multidisciplinary Research and Technology Organisation based in Boecillo (Valladolid, Spain). With 30 years of experience and more than 1,000 projects in Europe and Latin America, CARTIF develops innovative solutions for industry, public administrations and society in data, AI, robotics, digitalisation and computer vision. Supported by CARTIF's Industrial and Digital Systems Division, CARTIFactory offers robotics, AI, human-robot interaction and data infrastructures for experimentation, validation and service provision, with a focus on the digital transformation of manufacturing and other asset-intensive sectors.

Alongside the four newcomers, 24 i-Spaces confirmed their place in the community this year. Together, the 28 BDVA i-Spaces are:

i-Space	Coordinating organisation
ÁGORA Data Lab	University of Málaga, Málaga
AI4IA	NCSR Demokritos and Future Intelligence, Athens
Algebra	Algebra University College, Zagreb
Aragon DIH	ITA, Zaragoza
Brightbeam	Brightbeam AI, Waterford
CARTIFactory	CARTIF, Boecillo
CeADAR	CeADAR – Ireland's Centre for AI, Dublin
Data Space Demonstration Centre of Catalonia	i2CAT Foundation, Barcelona
DIHGIGAL	Association for the Digitalisation of Industry in Galicia, Vigo
EDIH in Transilvania	Transilvania IT Association, Cluj-Napoca
EGI	EGI Foundation, Amsterdam
EIDF	The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh
GATE	GATE Centre of Excellence, Sofia
INTEGRA DATA SPACE	Fundación INCLIVA, Valencia
ITI Data Innovation Space	ITI, Valencia
Know-Center	Know Center Research GmbH, Graz
Latvian IT Cluster	Latvian IT Cluster, Riga
MADE	MADE Competence Center, Milan
MEDIHub	MediTech, Naples
MiSS	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Madrid
NemoNoor	SINTEF (Norway)
nZEB Smart Home DIH	CERTH/ITI, Thessaloniki

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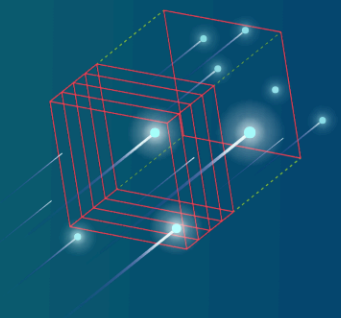

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i-Space	Coordinating organisation
PCSS/PSNC	Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center, IBCh PAS, Poznań
Plan4all	Plan4all z.s., Horní Bříza
poltextLAB	ELTE Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest
PRISM-AI	CEA, Grenoble
RISE	RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, Luleå
TeraLab	IMT Transfert (Institut Mines-Télécom), Paris

Since 2016, the BDVA i-Space label has served as a well-recognised quality standard for data and AI innovation hubs in Europe. It supports organisations in their growth, gives them visibility, and helps them expand their networks and increase their impact. The 28 labelled hubs form a pan-European network of federated i-Spaces that promote data innovation and AI experimentation, built on secure data-sharing and computing infrastructures.

i-Spaces are cross-sector and cross-organisational innovation hubs. They connect data sources, AI technologies and skills so that SMEs and start-ups can quickly test, pilot and bring data-driven and AI products to market. By offering secure, accelerator-style environments for experimenting with both private and open data, they speed up the adoption of data-driven innovation in sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, energy, health and the public sector. i-Spaces are active in many European initiatives, including AI Factories, AI Factory Antennas, Testing and Experimentation Facilities, European Digital Innovation Hubs and data spaces.

Candidates apply each year and are assessed by an expert committee appointed by the BDVA Board of Directors. The evaluation looks for excellence in seven domains: infrastructure, services, projects, ecosystem and impact, business and sustainability strategy, federation capabilities, and ethics.

For further inquiries, please contact: **operations@bdva.eu** and **communications@bdva.eu**.

About BDVA:

The Big Data Value Association (BDVA) is an industry-driven, international not-for-profit organisation that brings together members from across Europe, ranging from large companies and SMEs to start-ups, research centres and user organisations. Its work spans big data technologies and services, data platforms and data spaces, Industrial AI, data-driven value creation, standardisation and skills.

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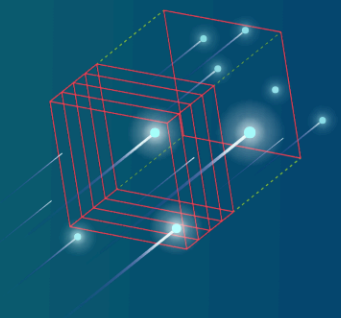

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BDVA's goal is to strengthen European competitiveness, societal wellbeing and sustainable progress through excellence in Data and AI research, development and innovation. It does this by building an innovation ecosystem that accelerates the data-driven and AI-enabled transformation of the economy and society, rooted in European values but with global ambition, and by helping business and society anticipate and respond to the rapid change that Data and AI bring.

BDVA is a private member of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking and a founding member of the AI, Data and Robotics Partnership (Adra). Through the Data Spaces Business Alliance (DSBA), it works closely with Gaia-X, IDSA and FIWARE, and it collaborates with national data and AI initiatives and other European communities.

BDVA welcomes new members. To find out more about its members and activities, visit **bdva.eu** or contact **info@bdva.eu**.

About EBDVF 2026:

The European Big Data Value Forum (EBDVF) is the flagship event of the European Big Data and Data-Driven AI Research and Innovation community. EBDVF 2026 took place in Galway, Ireland, from 30 September to 1 October. It brought together industry professionals, business developers, researchers and policymakers to discuss the challenges and opportunities for Europe in AI and data.