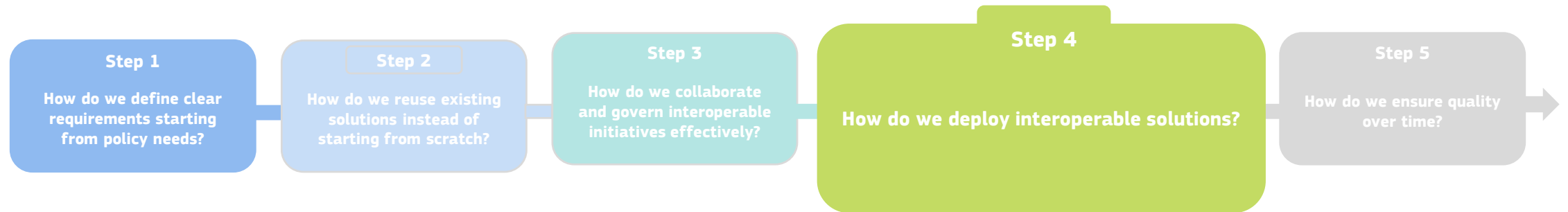


Seasonal School 2026 – Roadmap



Session 12 – Guidelines on sharing interoperability solutions

Session 13 – Building semantic interoperability: the SEMIC way

Session 14 – EIF Compliance Assessment with CAMSS: a practical introduction

Session 15 – GovTech and innovation in the public sector

Guidelines on sharing interoperability solutions

Monika Sowinska

Session 12

Interoperable Europe Academy
Seasonal School 2026

09-10 JUNE
2026



Agenda

01

Aims of the session

02

Introduction to the Guidelines

03

How to use the Guidelines

04

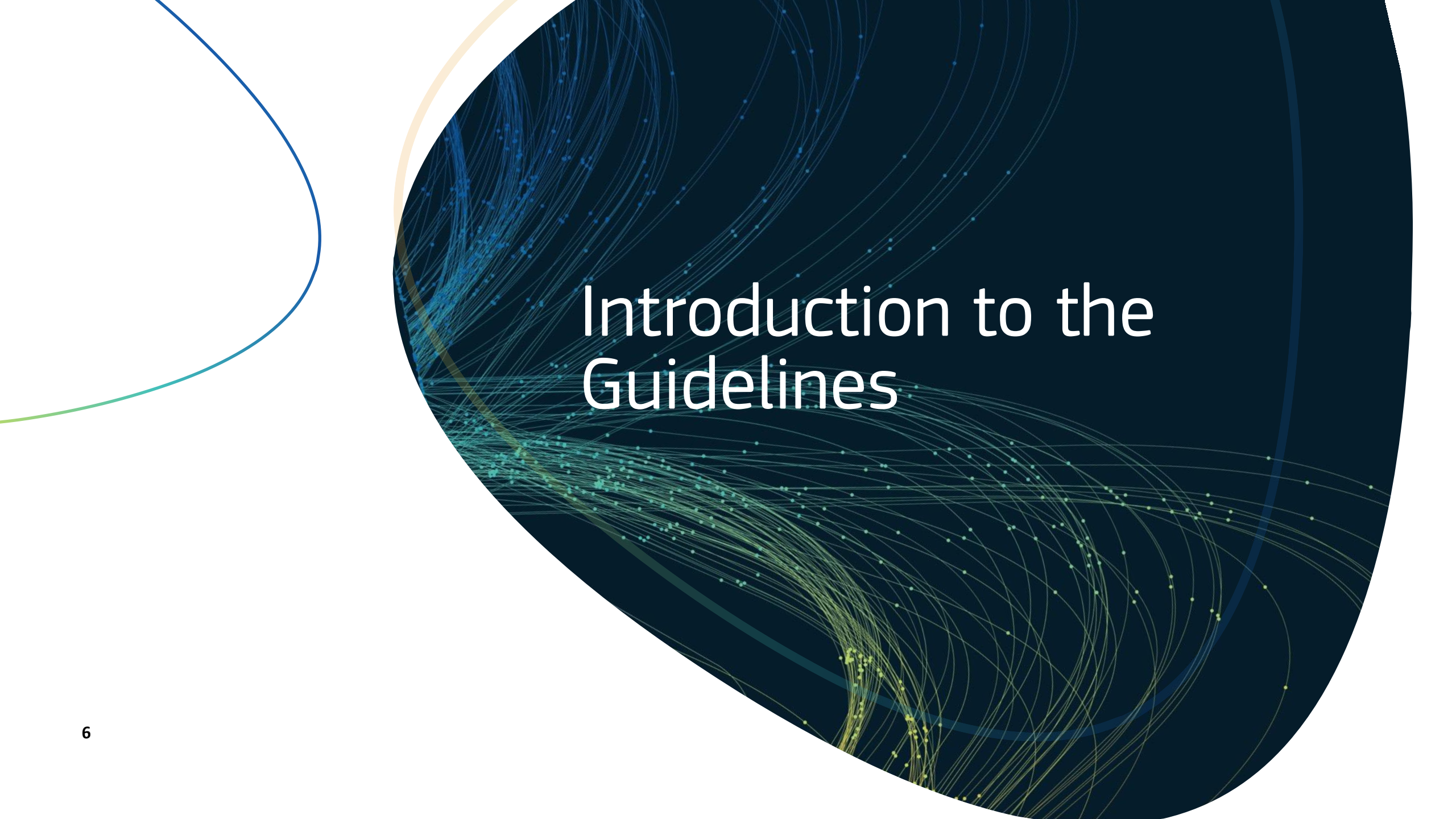
Closing takeaways



Aims of the session

Aims of the session

- 01 **Understand the purpose of the Guidelines**
- 02 **Learn how they support the application of the Interoperable Europe Act provision, especially Art 4 Share and Reuse**
- 03 **Navigate the Guidelines and identify your starting point**
- 04 **Apply the Guidelines as a decision-support tool**
- 05 **Reflect on implementation in your own context**

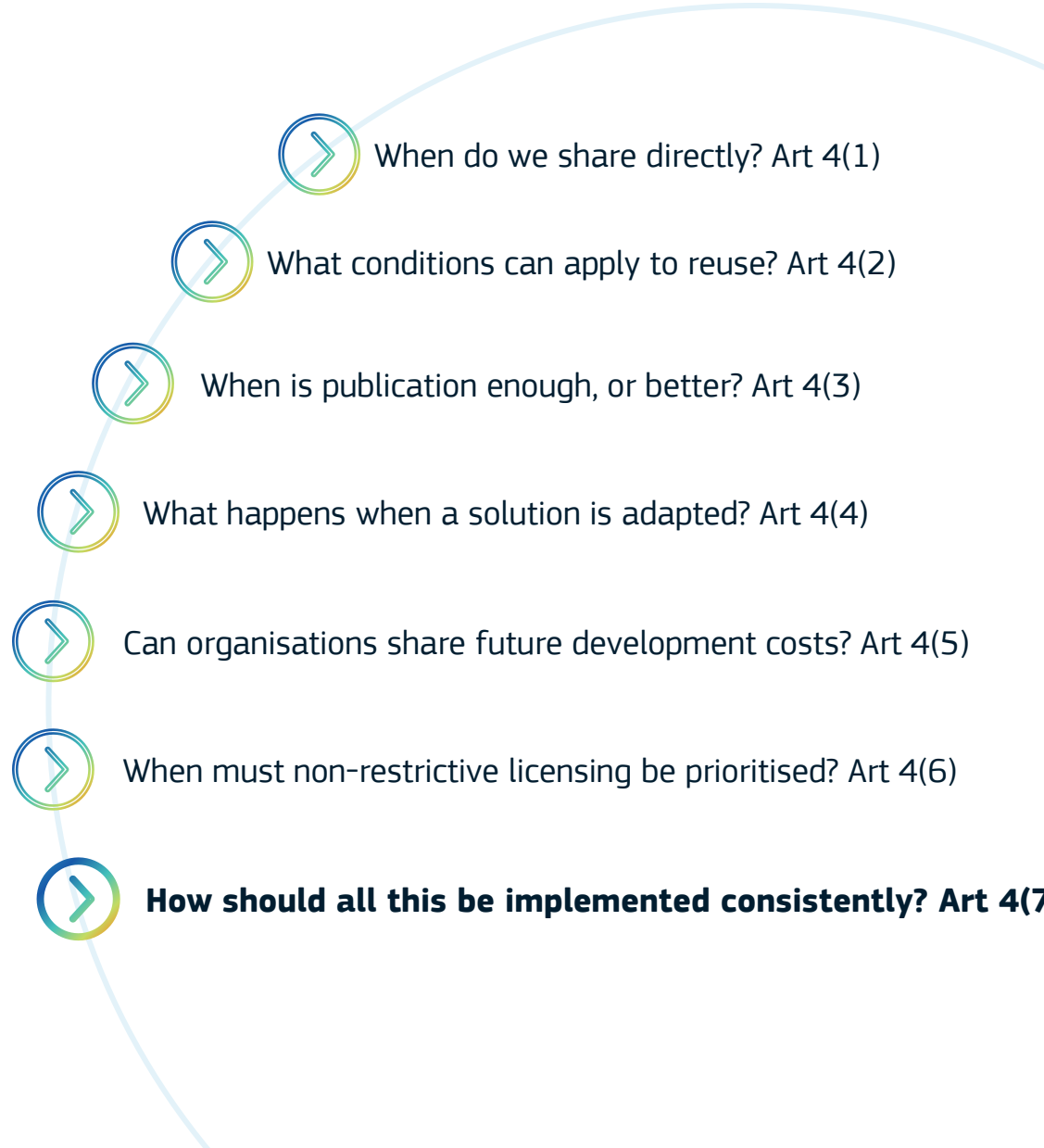


Introduction to the Guidelines

Why do we need the Guidelines?

The Interoperable Europe Act introduces measures to facilitate the sharing and reuse of interoperability solutions.

Article 4 ‘Share and Reuse’ sets the direction, but public organisations need to know how to apply it.

- 
- When do we share directly? Art 4(1)
 - What conditions can apply to reuse? Art 4(2)
 - When is publication enough, or better? Art 4(3)
 - What happens when a solution is adapted? Art 4(4)
 - Can organisations share future development costs? Art 4(5)
 - When must non-restrictive licensing be prioritised? Art 4(6)
 - How should all this be implemented consistently? Art 4(7)**

Introduction to the Guidelines

The Interoperable Europe Act introduces measures to facilitate the sharing and reuse of interoperability solutions.



Article 4(7)

Mandates the development of the Guidelines on the Sharing of Interoperability Solutions.



Article 15(5)(n)

The Board shall identify best practices for integrating interoperability solutions into public procurement.



Article 8(1)(f)

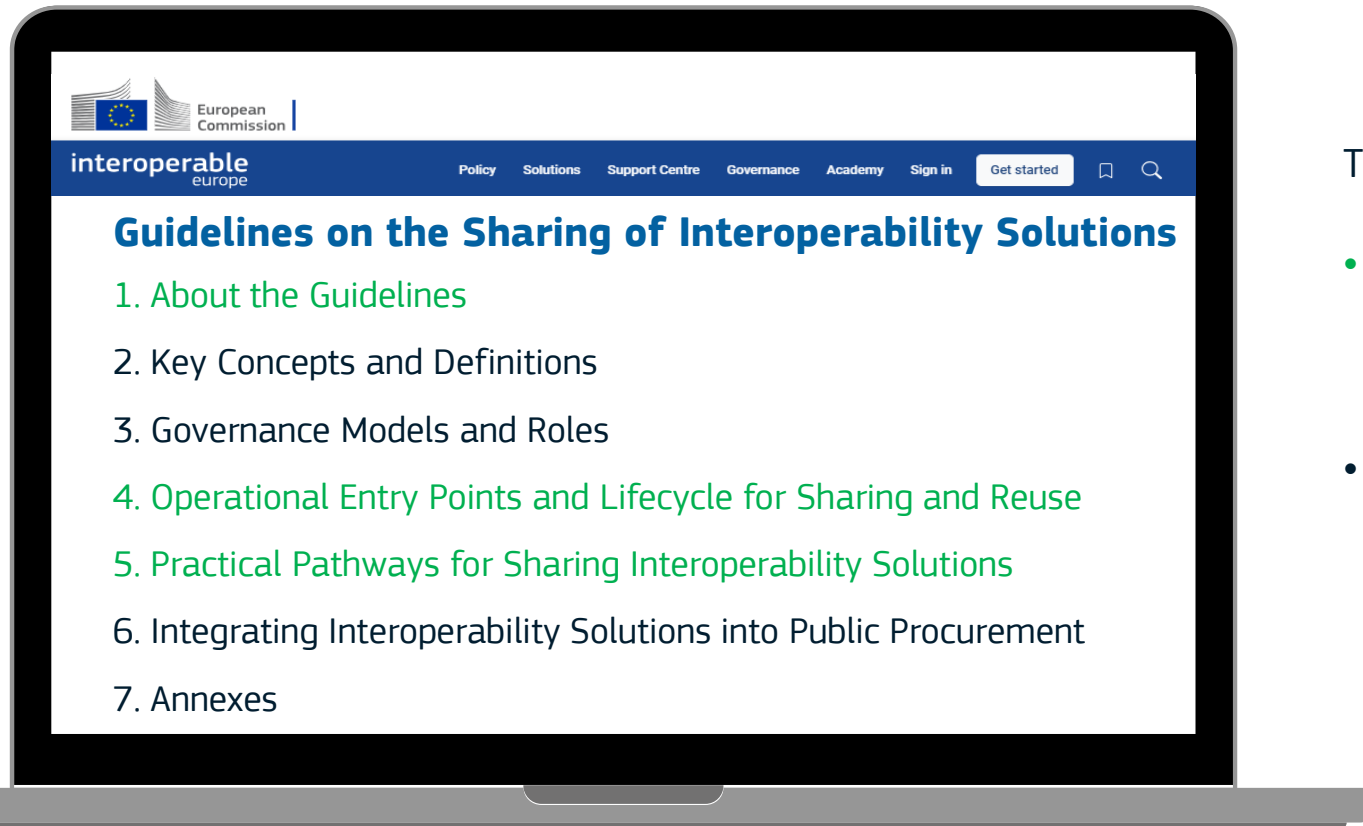
The Guidelines and related case studies will be hosted on the Interoperable Europe Portal.

The Guidelines are intended as an **implementation support instrument** that provides a shared operational reference **for applying the Act** in a consistent, proportionate and workable manner.

They do not create new legal obligations, nor do they replace the applicable Union or national legal framework.

The Guidelines were **approved** by the Interoperable Europe Board on **19 May 2026**.

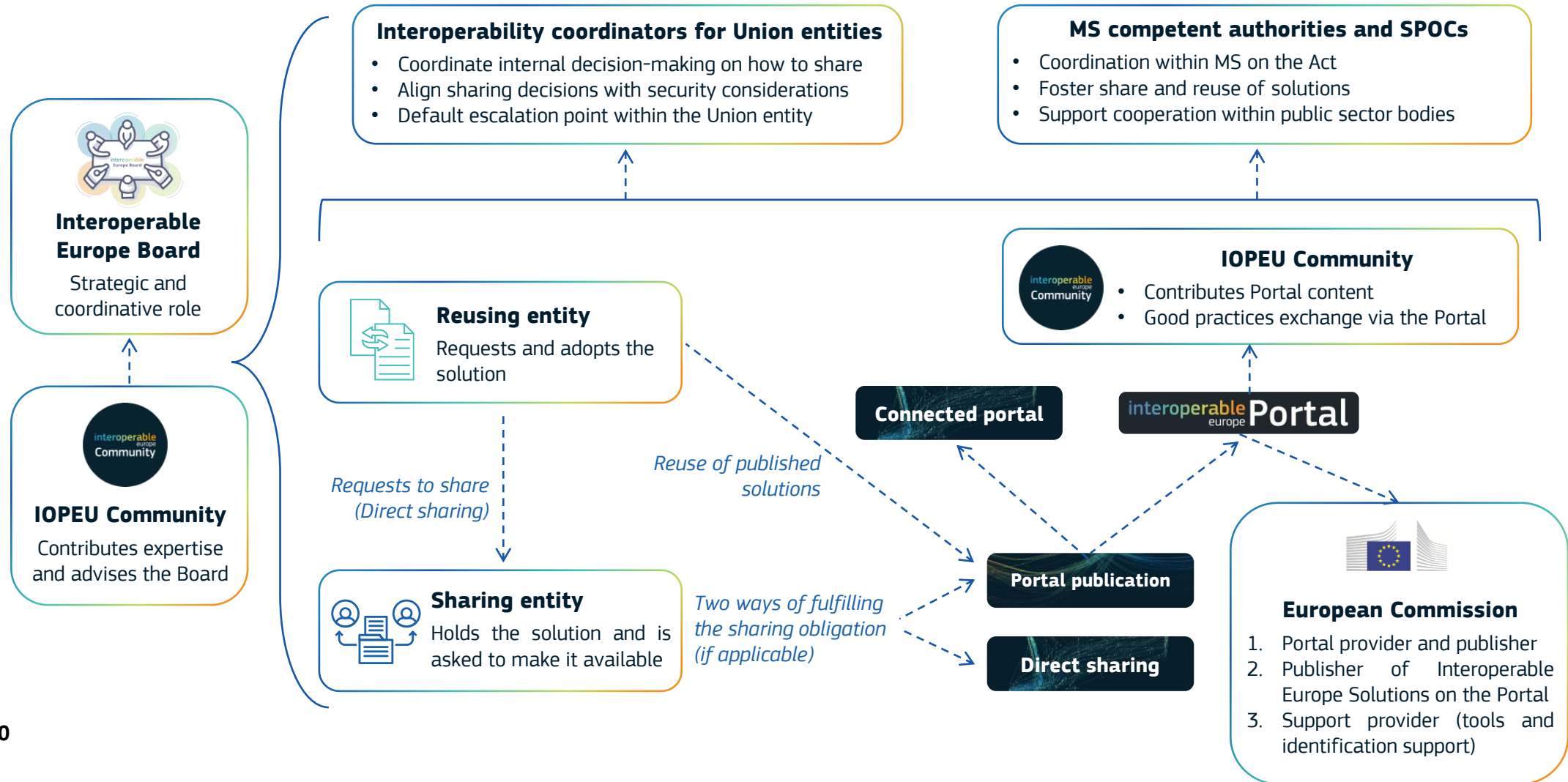
Structure of the Guidelines



The Guidelines are available in two versions:

- **a short version** (focus on the practical pathways, streamlined starting point with links to the extended version)
- an **extended version** (with additional, more detailed guidance on governance, roles and responsibilities, procurements, examples from practice, and annexes).

Governance



Pathways

Prioritising solutions without restrictive licensing terms

Article 4(6)

This pathway explains **when and how public organisations should favour interoperability solutions** that allow reuse and adaptation **without restrictive licensing**, where comparable options exist. It supports transparent and proportionate decision-making when selecting or designing solutions.

Publishing interoperability solutions via the Portal or connected portals, catalogues, and repositories

Article 4(3)

Designed for **situations where a solution is meant to be reused by many**, this pathway explains how making solutions publicly accessible supports scalability and avoids duplication. It covers **publication through the Interoperable Europe Portal and connected platforms**.

Direct sharing of interoperability solutions upon request

Article 4(1)

This pathway comes into play when **one public organisation asks another for access to a specific interoperability solution**. It frames how such requests can be handled efficiently while respecting scope, conditions and practical reuse needs.

Sharing adapted interoperability solutions

Article 4(4)

When a **public organisation wishes to modify an existing interoperability solution** for a different context, **this pathway governs what follows**. It clarifies how adaptations should be described and under which circumstances they should be made available to others.

Cost-sharing agreements for future developments of interoperability solutions

Article 4(5)

This pathway applies when public organisation using the same interoperability solution decide to **cooperate by jointly funding future enhancements or developments**. It supports coordinated evolution of solutions while keeping reuse open.

Connecting portals, catalogues and repositories to the Interoperable Europe Portal

Article 8(4)

For **organisations** that already **operate their own catalogues or repositories** with similar functions to the Interoperable Europe Portal, this pathway explains **how those platforms can be aligned**. The focus is on discoverability, interoperability and sustainable access rather than duplication.

Practical decision tree

Are we choosing between possible solutions?	Consider non-restrictive licensing / open source priority
Do we want broad discoverability and reuse?	Consider publication through the Interoperable Europe Portal and connected platforms
Has another public organisation requested the solution?	Check direct sharing pathway for guidance
Have we modified a reused solution?	Consider adapted solution publication/sharing
Do we want to jointly fund future improvements?	Consider cost-sharing
Do we operate a portal or repository?	Consider connection to the Interoperable Europe Portal



Let's look at some
pathways...

Prioritising solutions without restrictive licensing terms (Article 4(6)) (1/2)



Legal basis

When deciding on the implementation of interoperability solutions, Union entities and public sector bodies shall prioritise the implementation of interoperability solutions that do not carry restrictive licensing terms, such as open source solutions, where such interoperability solutions are equivalent in terms of functionalities, total cost, user-centricity, cybersecurity or other relevant objective criteria. The Commission shall provide support in identifying such interoperability solutions, as provided for in Article 9.

WHEN DOES THIS APPLY:

This pathway applies when a public organisation:

- is selecting interoperability solution;
- is comparing candidate interoperability solutions (possibly without restrictive licensing terms);
- is determining the licensing approach for an interoperability solution that it intends to make available for reuse.

WHY PRIORITISE NON-RESTRICTIVE SOLUTIONS?

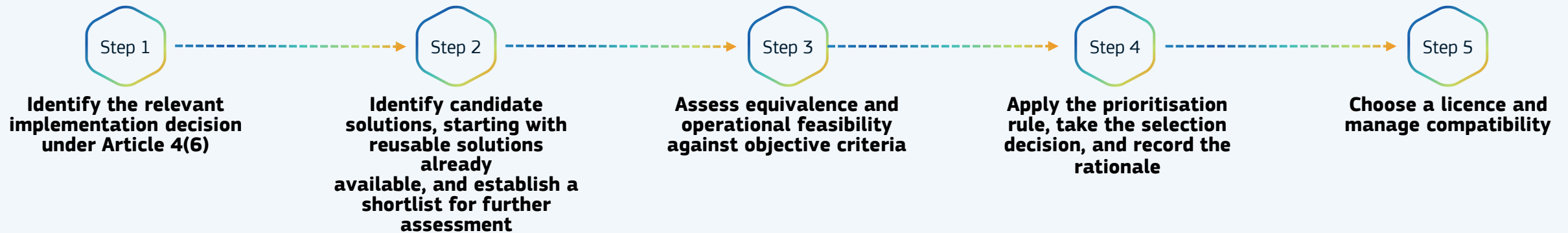
- Enable **reuse, adaptation, redistribution**
- Provide **legal clarity and predictability**
- Reduce duplication and implementation effort
- Support **cross-border interoperability** and collaboration
- Strengthen **digital sovereignty & avoid vendor lock-in**

WHAT SHOULD BE ENSURED:

- Functionality
- Total cost
- User-centricity
- Cybersecurity
- Other objective criteria

Prioritising solutions without restrictive licensing terms (Article 4(6)) (2/2)

Implementation guidance



Publishing interoperability solutions via the Interoperable Europe Portal or connected portals, catalogues, and repositories (Article 4(3)) (1/2)



Legal basis

The obligation in paragraph 1 may be fulfilled by publishing the relevant content on the Interoperable Europe portal or a portal, catalogue or repository connected to the Interoperable Europe portal. In that case, paragraph 2 shall not apply to the sharing entity. At the request of the sharing entity, the Commission shall publish the relevant content on the Interoperable Europe portal.

WHEN DOES THIS APPLY:

This pathway applies when a public organisation:

- fulfills Article 4(1) through public availability
- enable reuse at scale (beyond bilateral sharing)
- publish adapted solutions already made public under Article 4(3)

WHY PUBLISH?

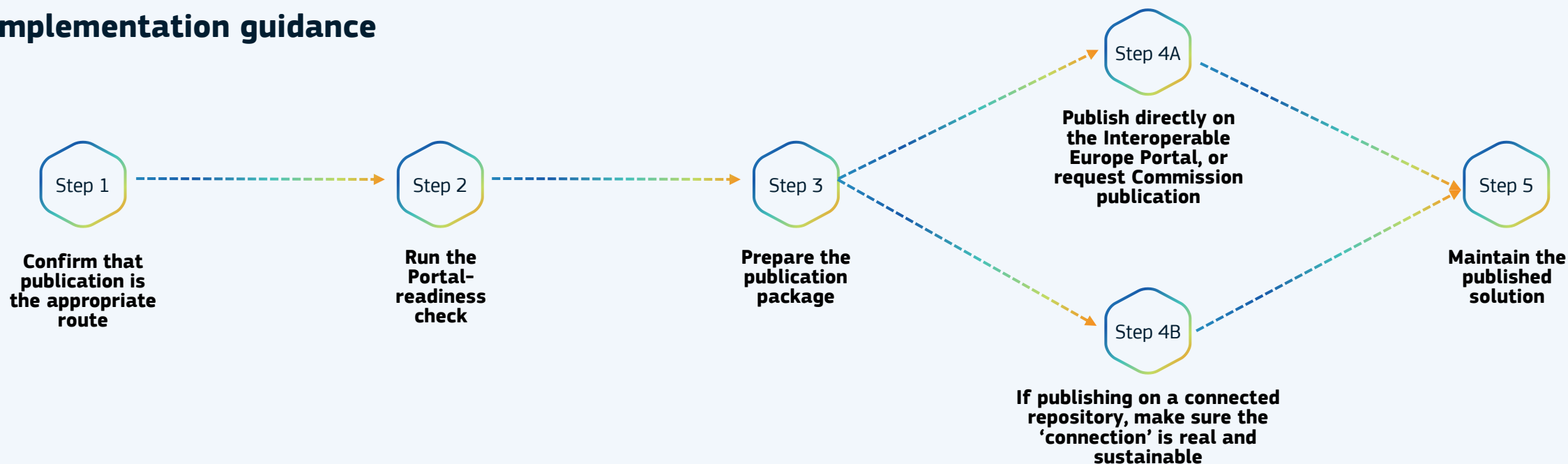
- Enable **broad discoverability and reuse**
- Reduce duplication across public sector
- Support **collaboration and community contributions**
- Contributes to **digital sovereignty and reduced dependency**

WHAT SHOULD BE ENSURED:

- No blocking third-party rights
- No personal/confidential data
- Alignment with interoperability solutions
- Reuse-permitting licence (or open source)
- Regular maintenance by owner

Publishing interoperability solutions via the Interoperable Europe Portal or connected portals, catalogues, and repositories (Article 4(3)) (2/2)

Implementation guidance



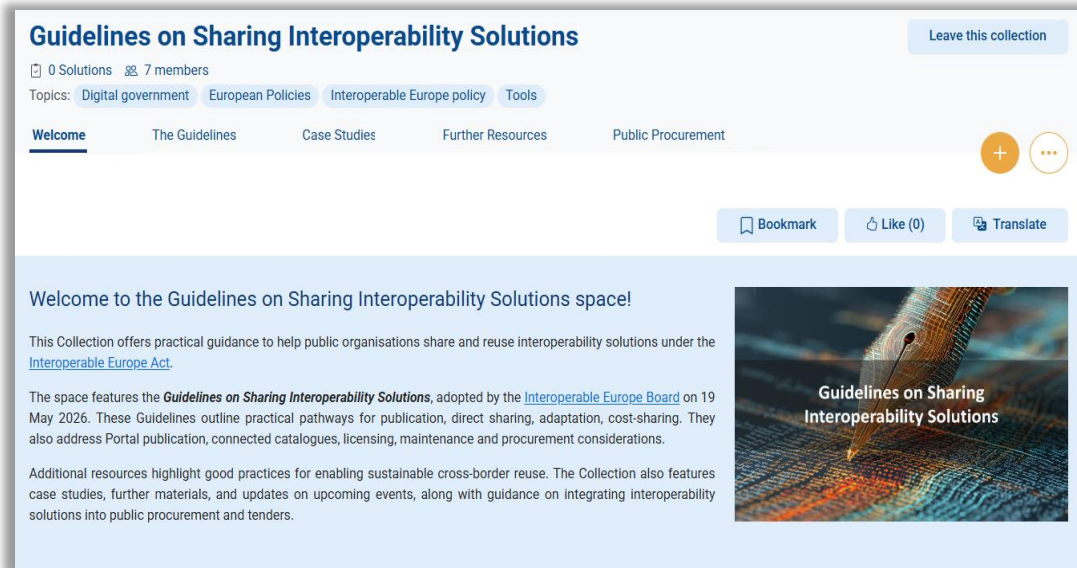


How to use the Guidelines?

Where to start and recommended next steps



Explore the **Guidelines on Sharing Interoperability Solutions Collection** that has just been launched on the Portal.



[Join the Collection](#)



Check the short version of the Guidelines: operational pathways for day-to-day use.



Consult the extended version of the Guidelines: governance, roles, procurement, risks, examples, annexes.



Look at the implementation scenarios and stay tuned for upcoming case studies.



Explore other resources available on the Portal: EU Open Source Solutions Catalogue, EUPL information, Licensing Assistant.



Follow IOPEU Academy courses on open source, licencing and the EU OSS Catalogue.



Closing Takeaways

Main Takeaways

- 01 Article 4 creates the legal architecture, but the Guidelines provide the operating model
- 02 Sharing is not only access. Reuse requires a usable package
- 03 The six pathways are situational, not sequential
- 04 Publication is a strategic choice, not just an upload
- 05 Reuse must be designed upstream
- 06 The practical mindset: decide, document, share, maintain

Mark Your Calendar

Join the webinar **Navigating the Guidelines on Sharing Interoperability Solutions: Where to Start and How to Use Them.**



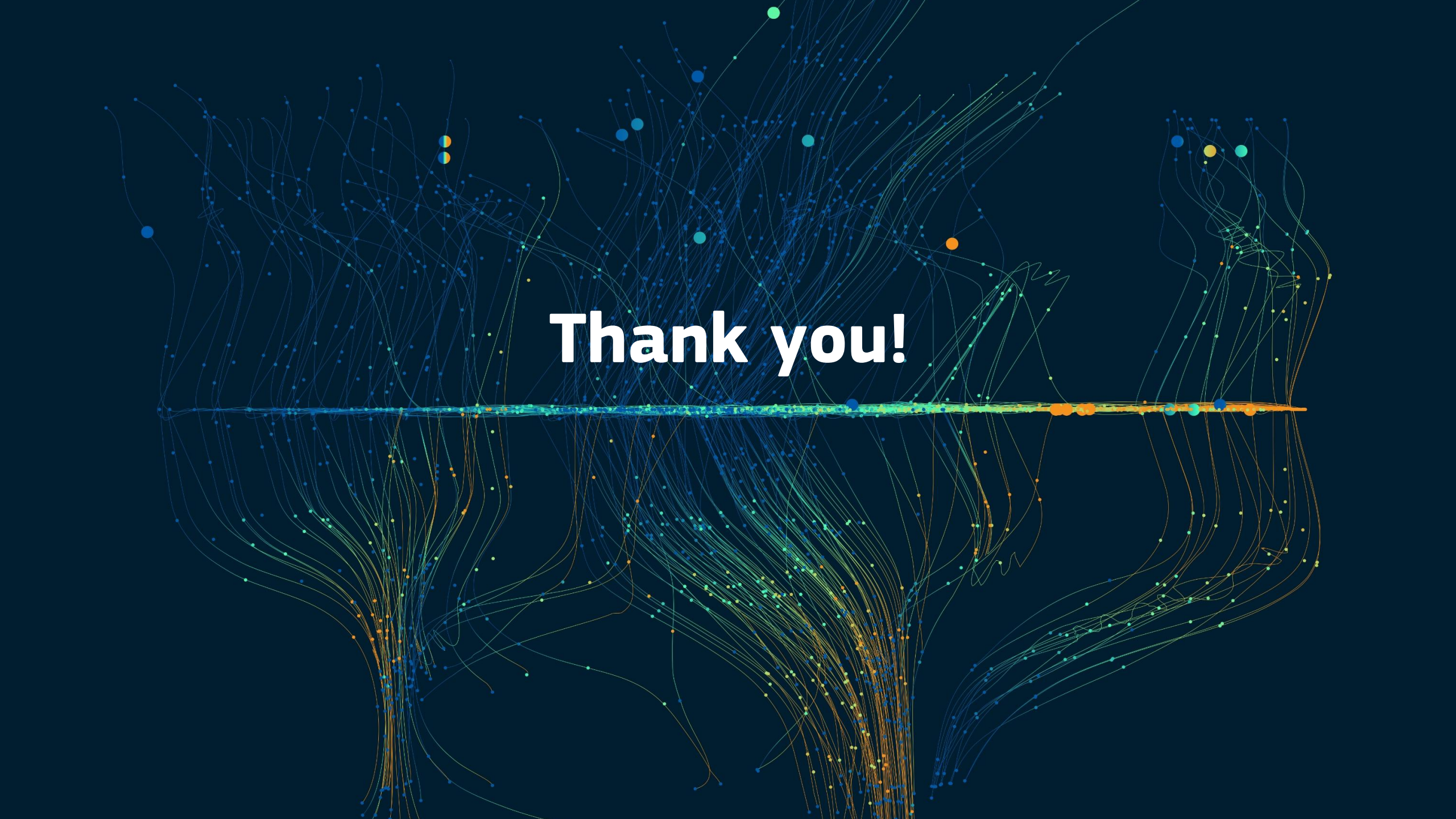
When: **25 June 2026 | 10 – 11.45 CEST**



Where: **Jitsi (online)**

[***Find out more***](#)

[***Register here***](#)



Thank you!