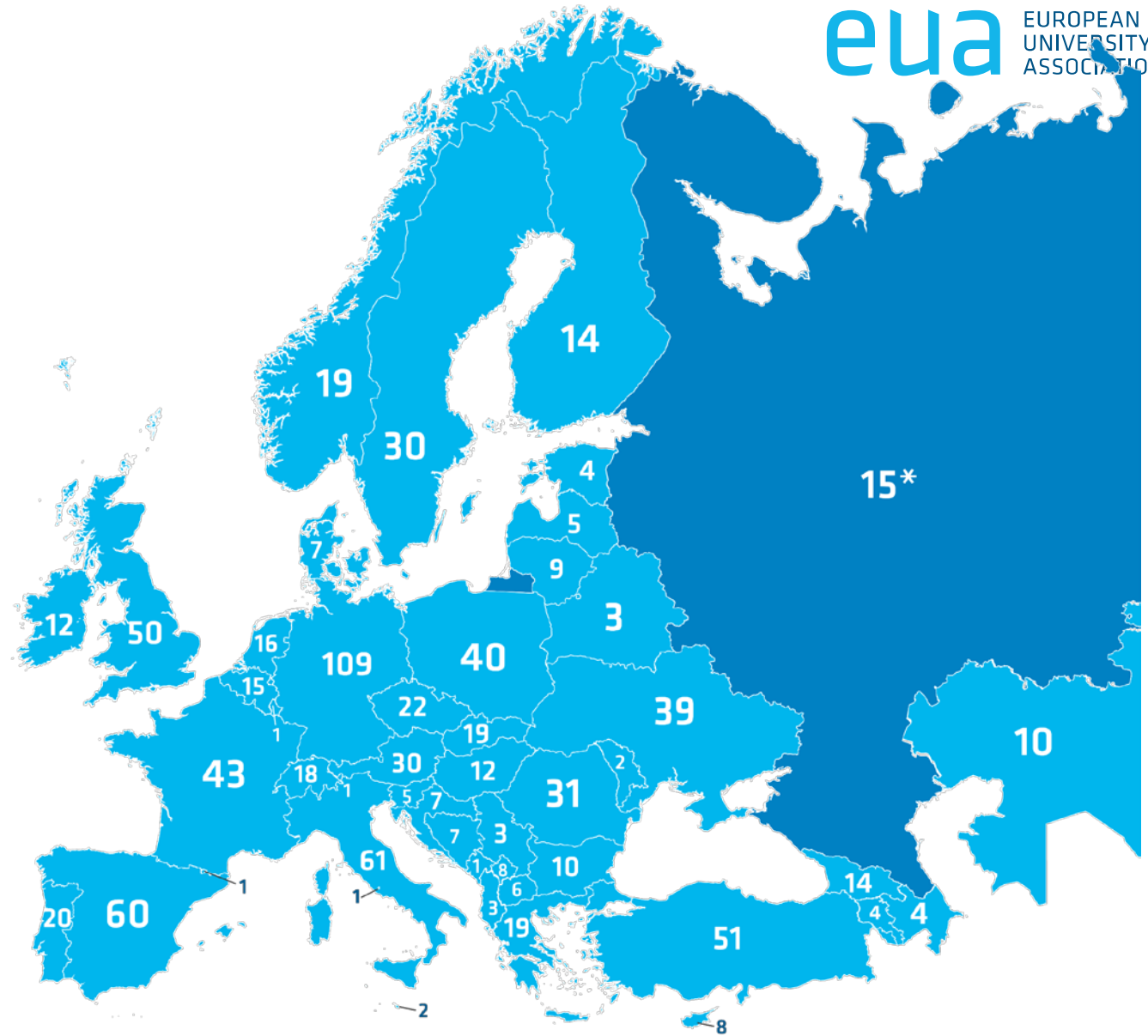


EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION
**Digital transformation – European
perspective**
European visions and universities

Thomas Jorgensen
Director Policy Coordination and Foresight

 @thomasjorgensen@eupolicy.social

EUA has 878 members
based in 49 countries
(as of 1 May 2022)



* Following a statement by the Russian Union of Rectors (RUR) supporting the invasion of Ukraine, EUA suspended Russian member universities whose leaders signed the statement.

The vision of a digital transformation the European way



Europe is not a technological leader

... but it is an efficient policy maker,

and a regulatory superpower

Looking to promote rights and competitiveness

Promoting a rights-based approach



PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

Digital technologies should protect people's rights, support democracy, and ensure that all digital players act responsibly and safely. The EU promotes these values across the world.



SOLIDARITY AND INCLUSION

Technology should unite, not divide, people. Everyone should have access to the internet, to digital skills, to digital public services, and to fair working conditions.



FREEDOM OF CHOICE

People should benefit from a fair online environment, be safe from illegal and harmful content, and be empowered when they interact with new and evolving technologies like artificial intelligence.



PARTICIPATION

Citizens should be able to engage in the democratic process at all levels, and have control over their own data.



SAFETY AND SECURITY

The digital environment should be safe and secure. All users, from childhood to old age, should be empowered and protected.



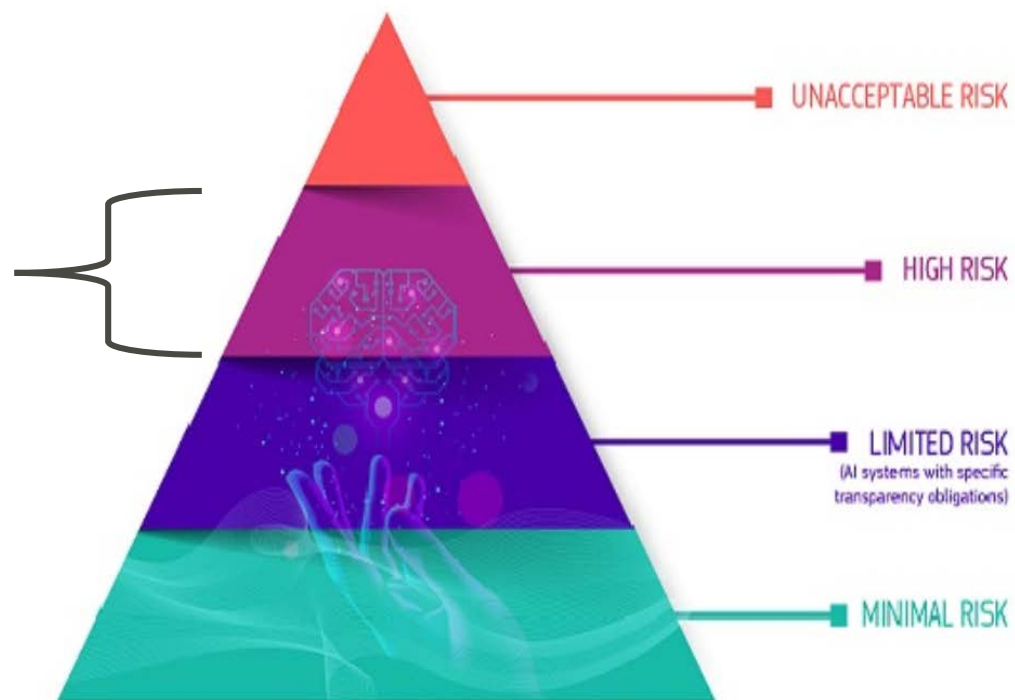
SUSTAINABILITY

Digital devices should support sustainability and the green transition. People need to know about the environmental impact and energy consumption of their devices.

Rights
guaranteed
through
regulation

Example AI Act

Significant impact on
people's lives –
including access to
education and
evaluation



Universities and rights

The regulatory approach focuses on compliance

- **GDPR**
- **Cybersecurity (NIS2)**
- **DSA (platforms)**
- **AI Act**

Turn it around – what can universities do to promote digital rights in the community?

- **... and how are rights perceived within the community?**

Rights
combined with
competitiveness
and sovereignty

A data economy

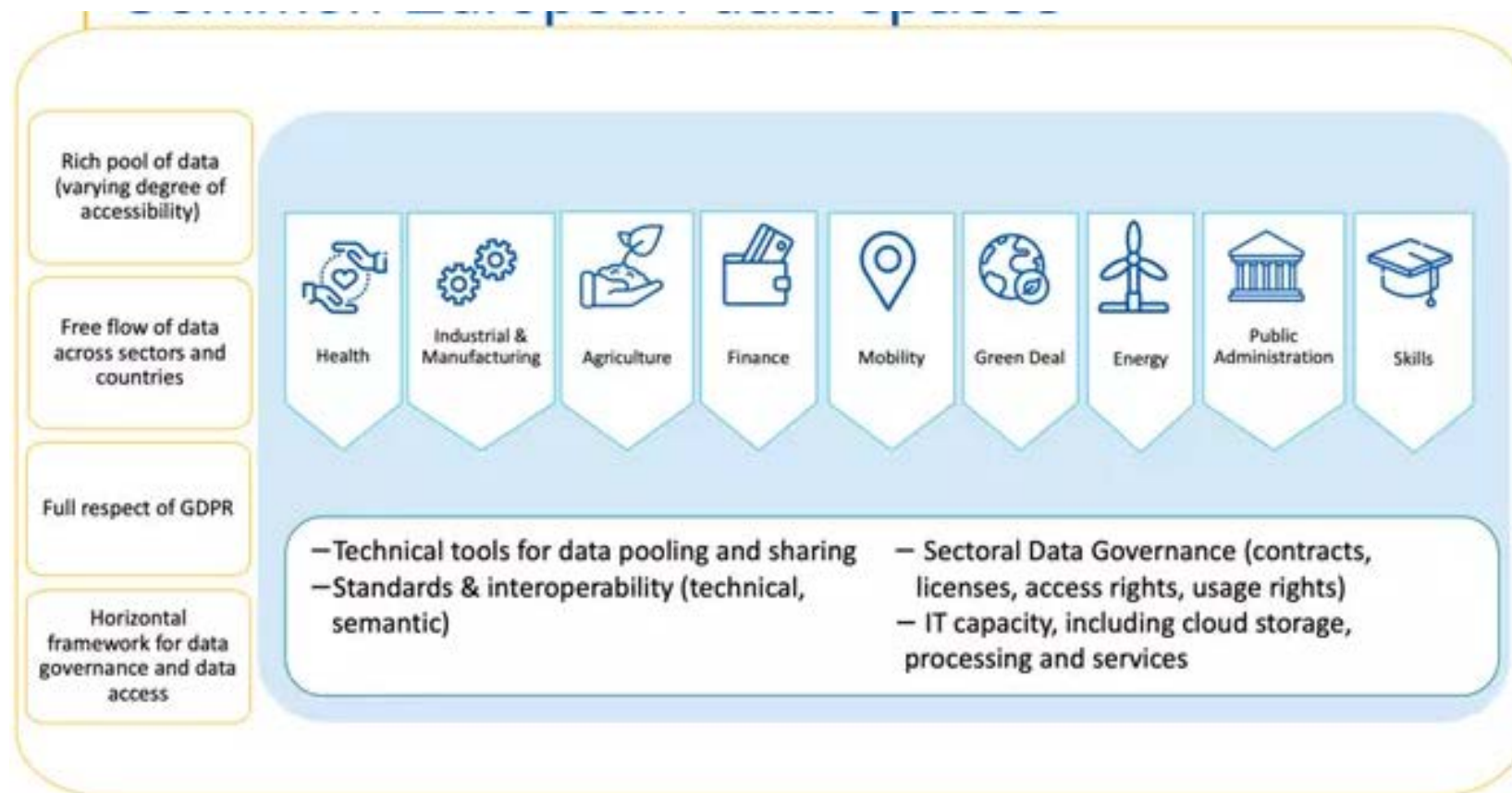
Data spaces for sectoral sharing

Common structures for identity and verification (eIDAS)

Interoperable public services



Data spaces



Non-regulatory policies

Investments

- **Bound by long budget cycles in the EU**
- **Horizon, Digital Europe, E+, RFF, Structural fund**

Infrastructure

- **Data spaces mostly federated**

Skills

- **Very few tools in the EU box**

Universities and data spaces

These are potentially revolutionary for understanding society

Universities will be both users and providers of data in these spaces

- There is a lot of (mixed) experience from EOSC

Interoperability and digital credentials are the immediate challenges

- Direct impact on university management

What do we want here?



What is the role of universities?

Compliance?

Actively shaping?

Be aware: It is easy to imagine a digital future without universities if we do not imagine one with universities in it!

- **Digital credentials with many providers**
- **Data being produced mostly outside universities**
- **Automated, centralised laboratories (perhaps private)**

Thank you for your attention

