

Workshop on SSbD Project Legacy

Satellite Event to the European Commission Feedback-to-Policy Stakeholder Workshop

Brussels | 3–4 November 2026

1. Background

Over the past years, the European Commission has invested substantially in the development and implementation of the SSbD framework through numerous Horizon Europe projects. Collectively, these projects have generated a broad portfolio of scientific knowledge, assessment methodologies, digital tools, FAIR data infrastructures, industrial demonstrators, policy recommendations and stakeholder networks.

The *SSbD Horizon Europe Projects Networking Event* organised by the European Commission in March 2026 marked an important step towards strengthening collaboration between projects. The discussions were subsequently complemented by an EU-wide survey and follow-up exchanges among project coordinators.

The upcoming *Feedback-to-Policy (F2P) Stakeholder Workshop* provides an important opportunity to discuss how research results can contribute to future European policy and innovation agendas across several industrial sectors.

At the same time, many first-generation SSbD projects will reach their conclusion by the end of 2027. While these projects have created significant European capabilities, an important question remains:

How can these capabilities continue to generate value after the projects themselves have ended?

The Workshop on SSbD Project Legacy, planned as a satellite event to the F2P Workshop, addresses this transition.

Rather than focusing on individual project achievements, the workshop aims to explore how the collective legacy of Horizon Europe SSbD projects can be preserved, connected and further developed within the broader European SSbD ecosystem.

2. Vision

To support the transition from individual Horizon Europe SSbD projects towards a lasting European legacy by identifying how project results, capabilities and communities can continue to contribute to research, innovation, industrial uptake and policymaking beyond the lifetime of individual projects.

3. Guiding Questions for the event

The workshop is structured around three strategic questions.

1. What is the legacy of Europe's SSbD projects?

Which scientific, technological, digital, regulatory and community assets have been created?

2. Which elements of this legacy should be sustained and further developed – and what is required to achieve this?

Which capabilities have strategic European value and therefore deserve continued attention beyond the lifetime of individual projects?

3. How can this legacy best be embedded within the wider European SSbD ecosystem?

Which existing European initiatives, organisations and networks, such as IRISS, IAM-I, standardisation bodies or future Framework Programme activities, can contribute to sustaining and expanding these capabilities?

To structure the discussion, the workshop will consider project legacy from two complementary perspectives: (i) the implementation and broad adoption of SSbD approaches, including exploitation, operationalisation, regulatory relevance, standardisation and capacity building; and (ii) the emerging ecosystem of SSbD solutions, including assessment methods, modelling and data infrastructures, research infrastructures, acceleration platforms, testbeds and related services. These perspectives provide the starting point for identifying which capabilities should be sustained and how they can contribute to the wider European SSbD ecosystem.

4. Objectives

The workshop aims to:

- identify the collective legacy of Horizon Europe SSbD projects;
- develop a shared understanding of strategic capabilities requiring long-term stewardship;

- identify collaborative opportunities for sustaining and exploiting project results during the runtime of the projects and after;
- strengthen links between Horizon Europe projects and complementary European initiatives (e.g. IRISS, IAM-I, JRC, OECD and standardisation activities);
- identify possible sustainability pathways for priority legacy elements, including collaborative actions, governance approaches, potential long-term hosts and required support mechanisms beyond the current funding period;
- formulate recommendations for future European policy and funding mechanisms supporting long-term SSbD implementation.

5. Working approach

The workshop is designed to move beyond the exchange of experiences and identification of common interests as done during the networking meeting in March towards concrete follow-up actions. Following the initial mapping of the collective SSbD project legacy, participants will identify priority legacy elements and explore pathways for sustaining them beyond individual project lifetimes.

For selected priorities, the workshop will seek to identify concrete actions, potential lead and supporting organisations, first implementation steps and indicative timelines. Existing and emerging European initiatives and structures – including IRISS, NSC, IAM-I, standardisation activities, research infrastructures and future European R&I activities – will be considered as potential pathways for connecting, hosting or further developing relevant legacy elements.

Agreed actions will be consolidated in an Action Register, providing the basis for an SSbD Legacy Roadmap and input to a subsequent Policy Brief to be presented, at least as draft, during the F2P Workshop.