

Framework Regulation

Description of the Expert Group

Association Contact	Stephan Bauer
Resort	Technology & Value Creation
Name of the Expert Group	Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI) / Digital Identity
Expert Group leader (Co-Lead)	Lead: open (TBA.) – further information below Co-Lead: open (TBA.) – further information below
Related Expert Committee:	Network Service Committee

Description / Challenge / Initial Situation:

Catena-X invites participation in the re-establishment of the Self-Sovereign Identity Expert Group (SSI EG). This call replaces the existing setup.

Planned start: August 2026

The group will define the future identity architecture of Catena-X in alignment with emerging trust frameworks across various global regions (e.g. the European Business Wallet).

The SSI EG will operate at a strategic inflection point where Catena-X must transition from a Catena-X-specific digital identity architecture to integrating with overarching, external trust infrastructure.

Objective:

The SSI Expert Group is tasked to:

- Define Catena-X's positioning in the European identity ecosystem (EUDI) Advise on whether Catena-X should act as consumer, contributor, or co-designer within the eIDAS 2.0 and European Business Wallet (EBW) ecosystem.
- Evolve the Catena-X trust model and infrastructure Transition from a single trust anchor (CSP-B) to a federated trust model.
- Evaluate replacement or abstraction of the Gaia-X Digital Clearing House (GXDCH) and related dependencies.
- Ensure support for relevant overarching trust infrastructures Continually evaluate and update the Catena-X digital identity architecture to ensure eventual compatibility with overarching trust frameworks and technologies such as EU Business Wallets
- Ensure interoperability with Participants' existing digital identity infrastructure for a deeper integration of the Catena-X ecosystem into the enterprise IT.

Framework Regulation

Scope:

Standard Ownership

The SSI EG owns, maintains, and further develops:

Standard	Title
CX-0049	DID Document Schema
CX-0050	Framework Agreement Credential
CX-0149	Dataspace Identity and Identification
CX-NFR-IdP	Identity Proofing

The SSI Expert Group is responsible for regular updates and maintenance of these standards. This includes writing any upcoming changes to these standards.

Core Topics (2026–2027)

Identity proving

Evaluate the current identity proving process and provide a recommendation whether the dependency on the Gaia-X clearing house should be maintained. Provide alternative methods of identity proving that may be enabled in the short-term.

Catena-X SSI Architecture

Evolve the SSI architecture of the Catena-X dataspace from the current state, where VC issuance is limited to one entity, to a more flexible architecture, allowing several roles to issue, hold, and verify VCs. This may include enabling the current VC types to be issued by multiple entities but also allowing dataspace participants to issue VCs to each other.

Attend to and keep up-to-date the current data models and protocols, such as VC Data Model v1.1 vs v2.0.

Leverage overarching trust architecture

Lead the integration of emerging overarching trust architectures in the Catena-X dataspace. This may include, but is not limited to, the EU Business Wallets and EU Company Credentials.

Framework Regulation

Participants / involved companies (recommendation of a maximum of 10 companies with a consistently same group of individuals):

Participants / Involved Companies

- Catena-X membership A core understanding of Catena-X and data spaces is required. This includes familiarising yourself with relevant Catena-X standards, such as
 - [CX-0006](#) Registration and Initial Onboarding
 - [CX-0018](#) Dataspace Connectivity
 - [CX-0049](#) DID Document
 - [CX-0050](#) Catena-X-specific verifiable credentials
 - [CX-0149](#) Wallet Requirements
 - [CX-NFR-IdP](#) Identity Proofing
- $\geq 70\%$ meeting participation Required due to high coordination and decision density.
- Expertise in: Digital identity, self-sovereign identity, identity access management Preferably including relevant protocols, identifiers, and protocols (e.g. W3C Decentralized Identifiers, VC Data Model, Decentralized Claims Protocol, OpenID4VCI/VP, ...)
- Active contribution mandatory Expected contributions include standards development, architecture decisions, and alignment with implementation tracks.
- Dataspace principles Knowledge/Common understanding about the Dataspace principles

Additional for Lead/Co-Lead

- Experience leading technical groups Ability to drive cross-company alignment and deliver results.
- Coordination with NSC Close alignment with governance, roadmap, and release cycles.
- Preferably Catena-X / Tractus-X experience Understanding of identity stack, onboarding architecture, and ecosystem dependencies.