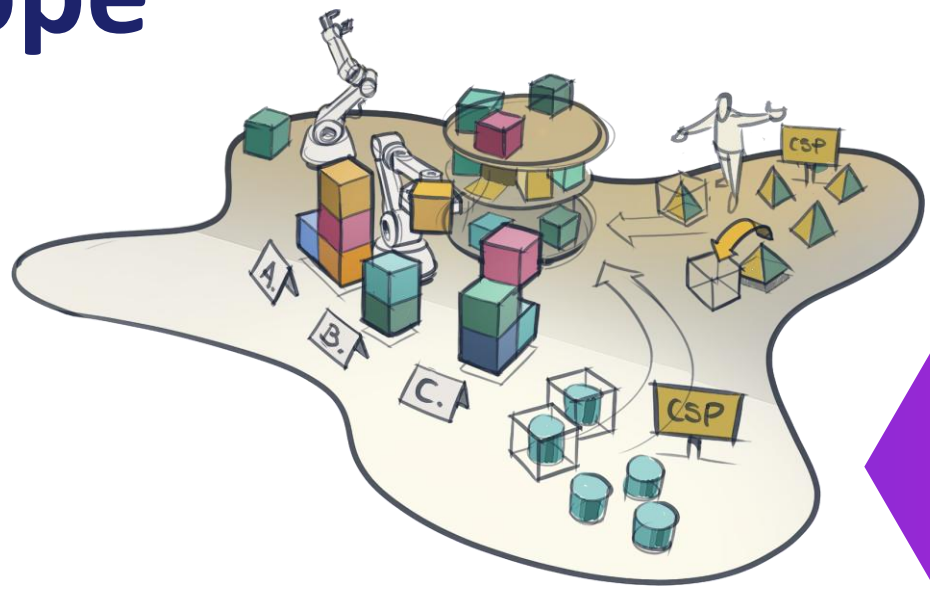
ECOFED: A Federation Framework for a Multi-Provider Europe

From fragmented providers to federated cloud

IPCEI CIS General Assembly – March 2026



8ra CLOUD·EDGE CONTINUUM

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European Providers Can't Win Alone - But Together We Can

Today: Hyperscaler Advantage

Hyperscalers offer a seamless, deeply integrated stack. One contract. One console. One API. Consumers choose them not because they are best at everything, but because the overall experience is simple, integrated, and easy to adopt.

- Integrated ecosystems
- Convenience that increases dependency
- Broad service portfolios
- Global presence and scale

Today: European Reality

Europe has hundreds of capable CSPs, but they operate largely in isolation. Consumers face incompatible APIs and bespoke integrations, which makes combining providers unnecessarily hard. The result: European providers lose on customer experience, not on capability.

- Limited cross-provider interoperability
- Choice without seamless convenience
- More specialized service portfolios
- Strong local CSPs, limited collective reach

Federation is the answer - if it reduces real operational friction

By federating, European providers can collectively offer the **integrated experience** consumers expect, while preserving sovereignty, specialisation, and sustainable competition. That is what ECOFED makes possible.

ECOFED's Distinct Approach to Federation

A consumer-led, framework-based model for federated cloud

ECOFED defines the interaction patterns that make services across providers comparable, composable and switchable.

Consumer-led

- Demand side drives service composition
- Comparable alternatives across providers
- Composable, best-fit solutions can be delivered by a group of providers
- Switching is expected, not exceptional

vs. provider-led

Framework-based

- Rules + interaction patterns, not a new stack
- Abstraction over existing provider stacks
- Extensible interfaces - adopt incrementally
- Tech-agnostic by design

vs. proprietary platforms requiring full adoption

Decentralized and open

- Ecosystems can interoperate independently
- Resilience by design
- Any provider (large, small, public, private) can join
- EU trust-frameworks, market-place(s) and catalogue initiatives are pluggable into our model

vs. single controlling entity or gatekeeper

How it works: Three Verbs - One Framework

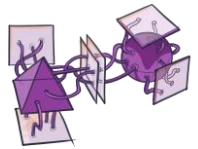
The operational core of ECOFED - what it actually enables

Compare

A semantic service description model that makes provider offerings comparable across capabilities, SLA, pricing, data residency, and compliance.

No more bespoke assessment per provider. Apples to apples.

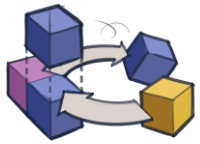
Compose



Standardised interaction patterns and an abstraction layer over existing provider stacks. Extensible interfaces let services from different providers be orchestrated as one cohesive system.

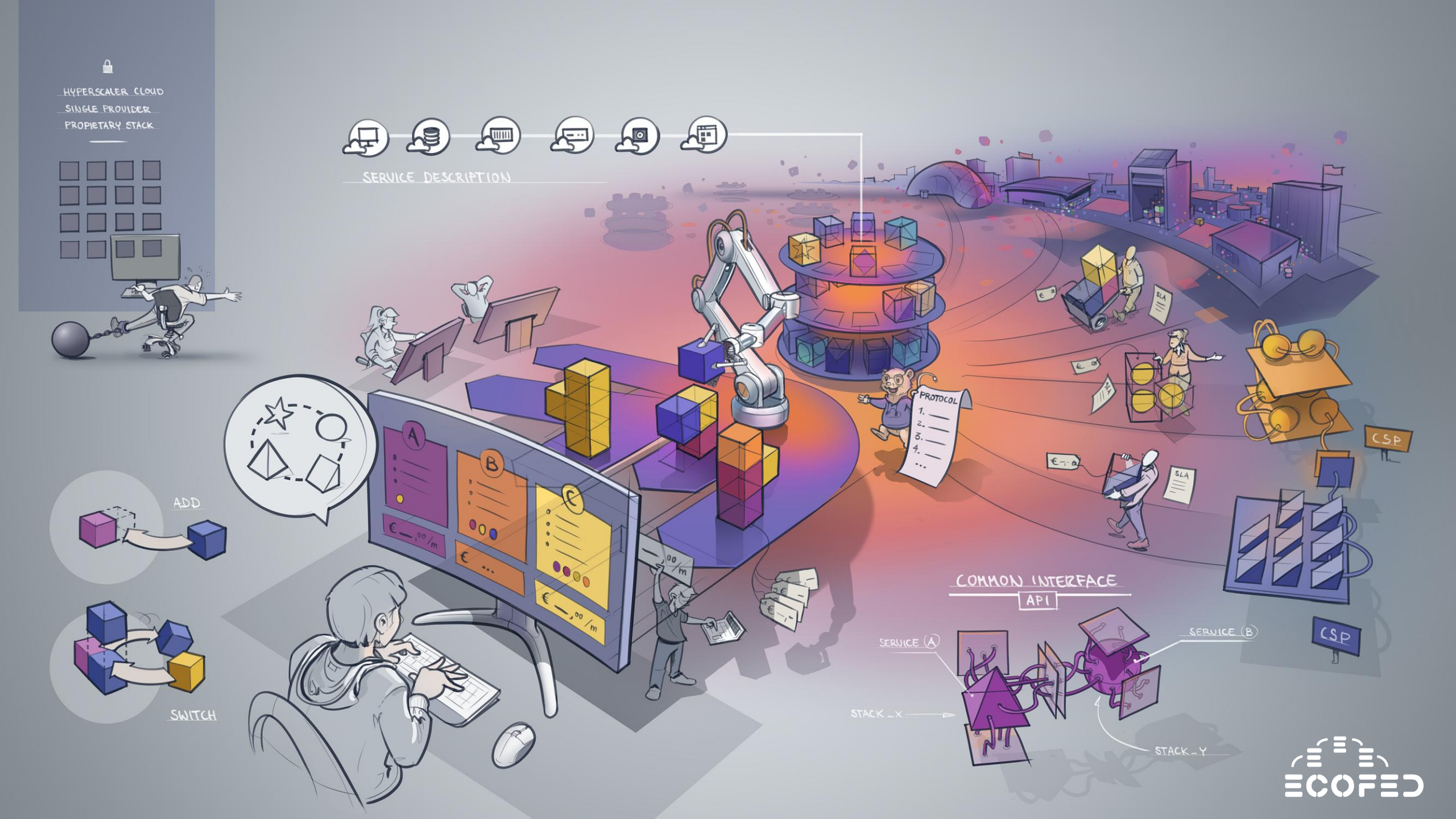
One system, many providers.

Switch



Portability-by-design reduces migration friction. Aligned with Data Act switching obligations, providers compete on merit, not lock-in.

No lock-in. Switch providers with low friction, any time.


HYPERSCALER CLOUD
SINGLE PROVIDER
PROPIETARY STACK
SERVICE DESCRIPTION
PROTOCOL
1.
2.
3.
4.
...
SLA
CSP
ADD
SWITCH
COMMON INTERFACE
API
SERVICE A
SERVICE B
STACK_X
STACK_Y
ECOFED

Validated by the industry

ECOFED is built and validated by the people who would actually have to run it

INTEGRATOR / SOFTWARE
Info Support

Validates real-world integration constraints. Confirms the framework works against actual enterprise software stacks, not just in theory.

✦ *Real integration constraints*

CLOUD SERVICE PROVIDERS
BIT · i3D.net · Info Support

Provider-side operational feasibility. Confirms the abstraction layer fits existing stacks without requiring complete re-platforming.

✦ *Operational feasibility*

INTERCONNECTIVITY / INTERNET EXCHANGE
AMS-IX

Grounds the framework in network and interconnect reality. Federation is not just API theory, it must work at the physical and network layer too.

✦ *Network + interconnect reality*

RESEARCH
TNO

Standards alignment and independent market verification. Ensures ECOFED positions correctly relative to EU standardisation bodies and existing frameworks.

✦ *Standardisation & market verification*

ECOFED: Infrastructure for European Digital Sovereignty

Why this matters – and how to engage

STRONGER EU CLOUD MARKET

From fragmentation to federation.
Comparable, composable, and switchable services create room for real European alternatives.

IPCEI-CIS / 8RA FIT

A foundation for a sovereign federated cloud ecosystem .
ECOFED helps services work together across providers and break down isolated silos.

DATA ACT ALIGNMENT

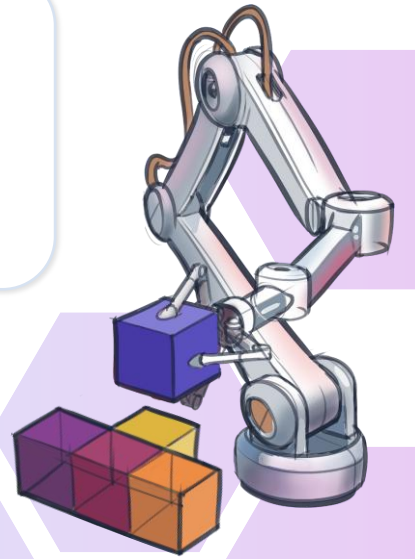
Technical foundation for switching obligations.
ECOFED makes provider switching and portability native capabilities of the framework.

FOLLOW

Scan the QR code for project updates, specifications, and upcoming releases.

✉ info@ecofed.eu

ENGAGE

Meet the project team at the booth.

We welcome discussions with CSPs, integrators, software providers, and ecosystem partners interested in federation.