The apprehension of urban data altruism

Evgeniia VOLKOVA
PhD Law student
Doctoral School of Law and Political Science
University of Toulouse 1 Capitole

What is data altruism ?

- Data Governance Act n° 2022/868 of 30 May 2022 (**DGA**), Chapter IV

- **Voluntary sharing** of (non-)personal data without compensation, for **general interest purposes**, on the basis of consent or authorization

- **Participants :** data subjects / holders, data altruism organizations and data users

- **Ultimate objective** : enhance trust in altruistic data sharing
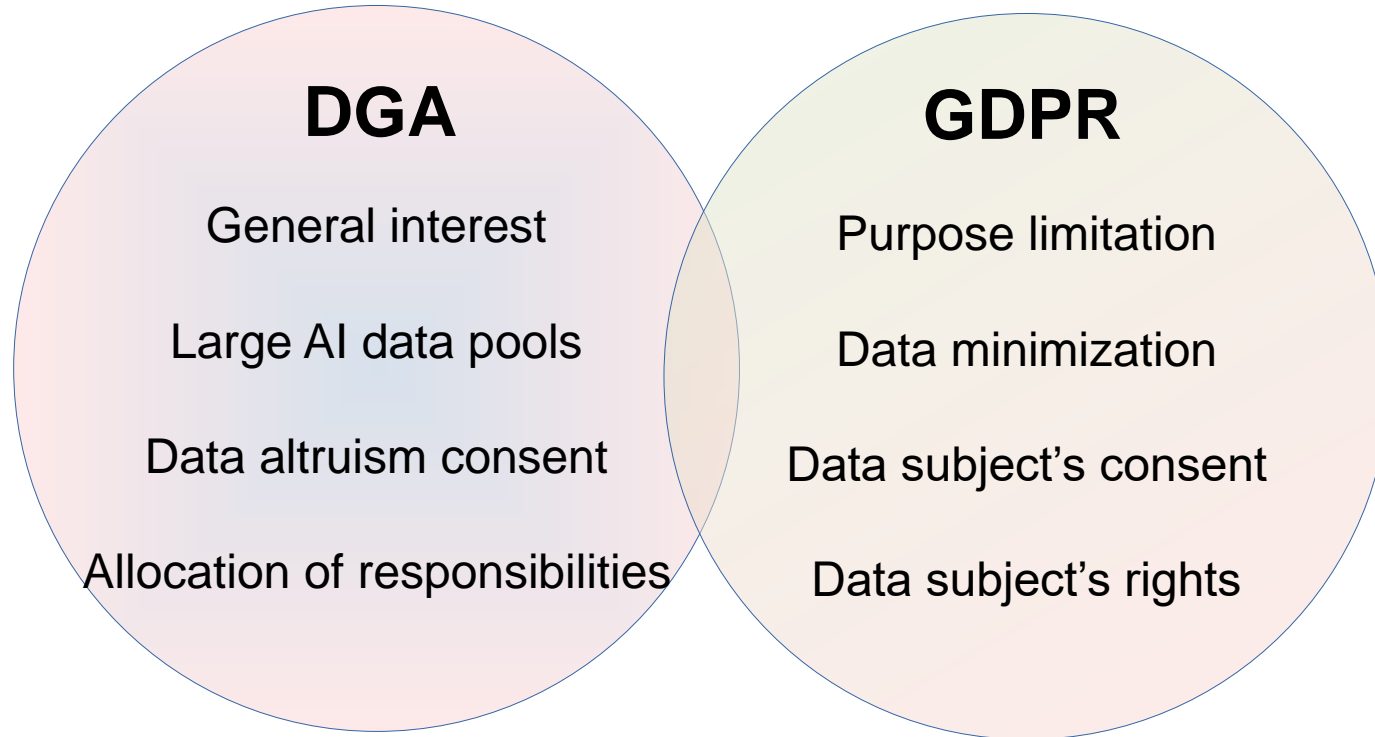
Benefits of data altruism for urban AI

- **Data pools** for machine learning and data analytics → increased **data availability** (ex. : Bike Data Project to make more urban cycling data available as public good)

- Access to **real-world citizens' data** (ex. : sharing of data from mobile wearables via the Corona-Datenspende app to understand and prevent the propagation of Covid-19)
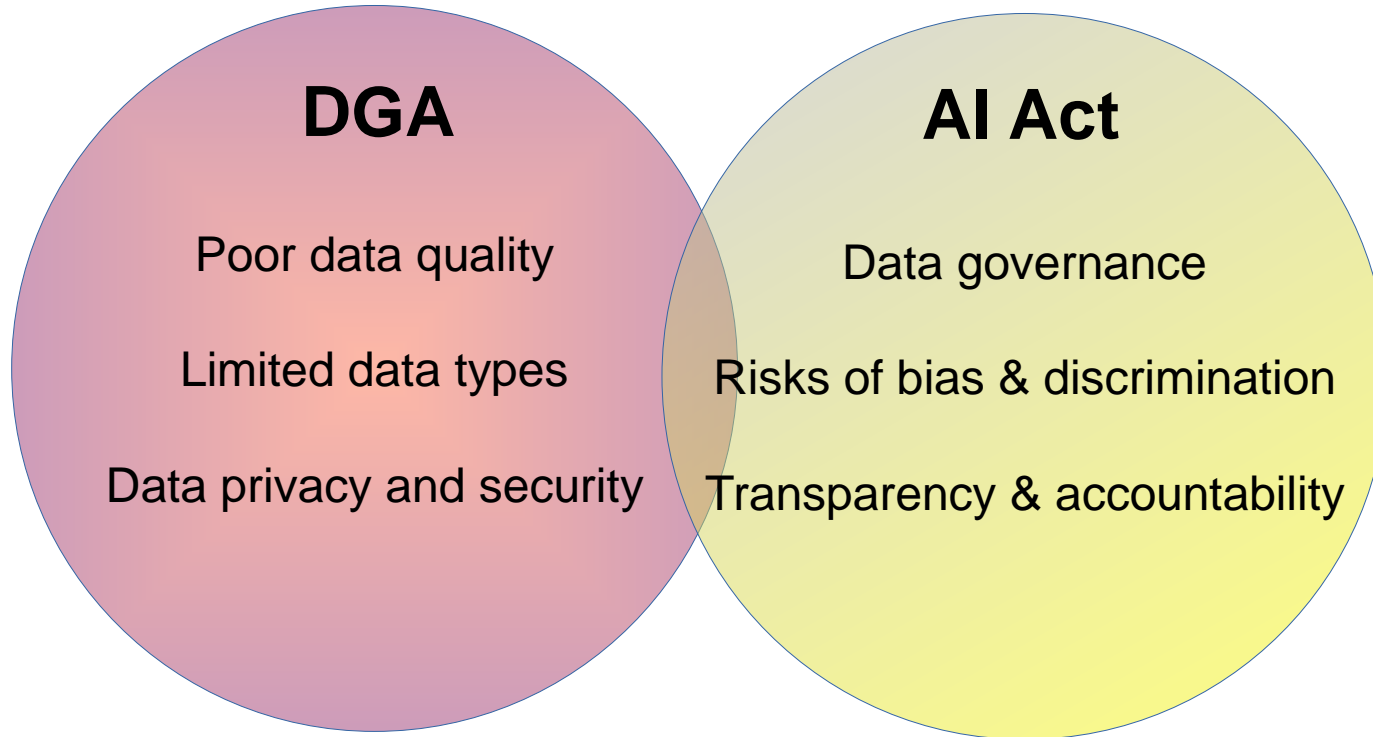
Benefits of data altruism for urban AI

- Elimination of **algorithmic bias** and **discrimination** (ex. : platform OpenStreetMap to share data on accessibility of urban infrustructure)

- **Collaboration**, **citizens' participation** and **local democracy** (ex. : « Coach CO2, Self Data Territorial », Smart Citizen platform)

Data altruism is crucial for the development of AI systems
Local data sets → AI systems taylored to the urban needs

Data altruism vs. GDPR

DGA

General interest

Large AI data pools

Data altruism consent

Allocation of responsibilities

GDPR

Purpose limitation

Data minimization

Data subject's consent

Data subject's rights

Data altruism vs. AI Act

DGA

Poor data quality

Limited data types

Data privacy and security

AI Act

Data governance

Risks of bias & discrimination

Transparency & accountability

Additional risks & conclusion

- **Promising mechanism** for urban AI systems

- Risks of **non-compliance** with the GDPR and the AI Act

- SME / local authorities may not be able to engage in data altruism activities due to high **financial** and **compiance costs**

- Risk of « **privatization of data** » by large technological companies

- Local authorities as **ecosystem facilitators** : local data altruism initiatives, collaboration with stakeholders, providing information

Thanks for your attention !

- evgeniia.volkova@ut-capitole.fr