Increasing consumer and business confidence
The Cloud Accountability Project (A4Cloud) focuses on the Accountability for Cloud and Other Future Internet Services as the most critical prerequisite for effective governance and control of corporate and private data processed by cloud-based IT services. The project will increase trust in cloud computing by devising methods and tools, through which cloud stakeholders can be made accountable for the privacy and confidentiality of information held in the cloud. These methods and tools will combine risk analysis, policy enforcement, monitoring and compliance auditing. They will contribute to the governance of cloud activities, providing transparency and assisting legal, regulatory and socio-economic policy enforcement.

The Cloud Accountability Project (A4Cloud) has four interlocking objectives to bring users, providers, and regulators together in chains of accountability for data in the cloud, clarifying liability and providing greater transparency overall:

- Enable cloud service providers to give their users appropriate control and transparency over how their data is used.
- Enable users to make choices about how cloud service providers may use and will protect data in the cloud.
- Monitor and check compliance with users’ expectations, business policies, and regulations.
- Implement accountability ethically and effectively.
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2. **Enable users to make choices about how cloud service providers may use and will protect data in the cloud.**
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4. **Implement accountability ethically and effectively.**

This approach follows an inter-disciplinary co-design of the Accountability assets by implementing it in different perspectives (technical, legal, socio-economic and ethical) and addressing the four main objectives of the project.
The project brings together a multidisciplinary consortium of researchers and practitioners from industry (multi-nationals and SMEs), Universities and Research Institutes.