A European approach to artificial intelligence

The EU’s approach to artificial intelligence centers on excellence and trust, aiming to boost research and industrial capacity while ensuring safety and fundamental rights.

The way we approach Artificial Intelligence (AI) will define the world we live in the future. To help building a resilient, people and businesses should be able to enjoy the benefits of AI while feeling safe and protected.

The European AI Strategy aims at making the EU a world-class hub for AI and ensuring that AI is human-centric and trustworthy. Such an objective translates into the European approach to excellence and trust (.pdf) through concrete rules and actions.

In April 2021, the Commission presented its AI package, including:

- its Communication on fostering a European approach to artificial intelligence;
- an update of the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence (with EU Member States);
- its proposal for a regulation laying down harmonised rules on AI (AI Act) and relevant Impact assessment.

A European approach to excellence in AI

Fostering excellence in AI will strengthen Europe’s potential to compete globally.

The EU will achieve this by:
1. enabling the development and uptake of AI in the EU;
2. making the EU the place where AI thrives from the lab to the market;
3. ensuring that AI works for people and is a force for good in society;
4. building strategic leadership in high-impact sectors.

The Commission and Member States agreed to boost excellence in AI by joining forces on policy and investments. The updated Coordinated Plan on AI outlines a vision to accelerate, act, and align priorities with the current European and global AI landscape and bring AI strategy into action.

Maximising resources and coordinating investments is a critical component of AI excellence. Through the Digital Europe and Horizon Europe programmes, the Commission plans to invest €1 billion per year in AI. It will mobilise additional investments from the private sector and the Member States in order to reach an annual investment volume of €20 billion over the course of the digital decade.

The Recovery and Resilience Facility makes €134 billion available for digital. This will be a game-changer, allowing Europe to amplify its ambitions and become a global leader in developing cutting-edge, trustworthy AI.

Access to high quality data is an essential factor in building high performance, robust AI systems. Initiatives such as the EU Cybersecurity Strategy, the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act, and the Data Governance Act provide the right infrastructure for building such systems.

**A European approach to trust in AI**

Building trustworthy AI will create a safe and innovation-friendly environment for users, developers and deployers.

The Commission has proposed 3 inter-related legal initiatives that will contribute to building trustworthy AI:

1. A European legal framework for AI to address fundamental rights and safety risks specific to the AI systems;
2. An AI liability directive - adapting liability rules to the digital age and AI;
3. A Proposal for a product liability directive

**European proposal for a legal framework on AI**

The Commission aims to address the risks generated by specific uses of AI through a set of complementary, proportionate and flexible rules. These rules will also provide Europe with a leading role in setting the global gold standard.

This framework gives AI developers, deployers and users the clarity they need by intervening only in those cases that existing national and EU legislations do not cover. The legal framework for AI proposes a clear, easy to understand approach, based on four different levels of risk: unacceptable risk, high risk, limited risk, and minimal risk.

**Important milestones**

1. September 2022
   Proposal for an AI liability directive
2. May 2022
European Parliament (Press Release): MEPs want the EU to be a global standard-setter in AI

European Parliament: Resolution on artificial intelligence in a digital age

3. November 2021
Council of the EU: Presidency compromise text on the AI Act

Council of the EU: AI Act progress report

4. October 2021
Council of the EU (Press Release): Presidency issues conclusions on ensuring respect for fundamental rights by AI

Council of the EU: Informal video conference of telecommunications ministers

European Parliament: Resolution on artificial intelligence in criminal law and its use by the police and judicial authorities in criminal matters

5. September 2021
High-Level Conference on AI: From Ambition to Action (3d European AI Alliance Assembly)

6. June 2021
Public consultation on Civil liability – adapting liability rules to the digital age and artificial intelligence

European Commission: Proposal for a Regulation on Product Safety

7. May 2021
European Parliament: Resolution on artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector

8. April 2021
European Commission: Communication on Fostering a European approach to AI

European Commission: Proposal for a regulation laying down harmonised rules on AI
European Commission: updated coordinated plan on AI

European Commission: Impact assessment of an AI regulation

9. October 2020
2nd European AI alliance assembly

European Parliament: Resolution with recommendations to the Commission on a civil liability regime for artificial intelligence

European Parliament: Resolution on intellectual property rights for the development of artificial intelligence technologies

European Parliament: Resolution on a framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies

10. July 2020
Artificial intelligence — ethical and legal requirements
Inception impact assessment
White paper on AI
Public Consultation
AI High Level Expert Group
Final assessment list on trustworthy AI (ALTAI)
Sectorial recommendations of trustworthy AI of the AI high level expert group

11. February 2020
White paper on AI: a European approach to excellence and trust

12. December 2019
Piloting of assessment list of trustworthy AI

13. June 2019
First European AI assembly
Policy and investment recommendations of AI high level expert group

14. April 2019
Communication: building trust in human-centric artificial intelligence
Ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI

15. December 2018
Cooordinated plan on AI(.pdf)
Press release: AI made in Europe
Communication: AI made in Europe (.pdf)
Stakeholder consultation on draft ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI

16. June 2018
Launch of the European AI alliance
Set up of the high level expert group on AI

17.
April 2018
Press release: Artificial intelligence for Europe
Communication: Artificial intelligence for Europe
Staff working document: Liability for emerging digital technologies
Declaration of cooperation on artificial intelligence

18.
March 2018
Press release: AI expert group and European AI alliance

Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence 2021 Review

Proposal for a Regulation on artificial intelligence
Strategy on artificial intelligence
White paper on artificial intelligence
Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
Follow the Commission's work on robotics @RoboticsEU

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Digital Europe Programme: Commission opens calls to invest €200 million in digital tech

The Commission has opened the third set of calls for proposals of the Digital Europe Programme, worth €200 million, under the 2021-2022 Work Programmes.

PRESS RELEASE | 28 September 2022
New liability rules on products to protect
consumers and foster innovation

The Commission has adopted two proposals to adapt liability rules to the digital age, circular economy and the impact of global value chains.

DIGIBYTE | 27 June 2022
First regulatory sandbox on Artificial Intelligence presented

A pilot of the first regulatory sandbox on Artificial Intelligence (AI) was presented earlier this week by the government of Spain and the European Commission at an event held in Brussels in the presence of Spanish, European authorities as well as renowned experts in the field.

PRESS RELEASE | 22 June 2022
Digital Assembly 2022: A closer look into the digital future

At the Digital Assembly, held on 21 and 22 June in Toulouse, the European Commission and the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union have organised a session on continued support for Ukraine’s digital sector.

Browse Artificial intelligence
The EU aims to build trustworthy artificial intelligence that puts people first.

International outreach for human-centric artificial intelligence initiative
The international outreach for human-centric artificial intelligence initiative will help promote the EU’s vision on sustainable and trustworthy AI.

Regulatory framework proposal on artificial intelligence

The Commission is proposing the first-ever legal framework on AI, which addresses the risks of AI and positions Europe to play a leading role globally.

Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence 2021 Review

The key aims of the Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence 2021 Review are to accelerate investment in AI, act on AI strategies and programmes and align AI policy to avoid fragmentation.

High-level expert group on artificial intelligence

The European Commission appointed a group of experts to provide advice on its artificial intelligence strategy.

The European AI Alliance

The European AI Alliance is an initiative of the European Commission to establish an open policy dialogue on Artificial Intelligence. Since its launch in 2018, the AI Alliance has engaged around 6000 stakeholders through regular events, public consultations and online forum...

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Robotics

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