

## EU Member States sign up to cooperate on Artificial Intelligence

On 10 April 25 European countries signed a Declaration of cooperation on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Whereas a number of Member States had already announced national initiatives on Artificial Intelligence, they now declared a strong will to join forces and engage in a European approach to deal therewith. By teaming up, the opportunities of AI for Europe can be fully ensured, while the challenges can be dealt with collectively.



European Commission

The Member States agreed to work together on the most important issues raised by Artificial Intelligence, from ensuring Europe's competitiveness in the research and deployment of AI, to dealing with social, economic, ethical and legal questions.

The Declaration builds further on the achievements and investments of the European research and business community in AI. AI is already used by citizens daily and facilitates both their personal and professional lives. It can also solve key societal challenges, from sustainable healthcare to climate change and from cybersecurity to sustainable migration. Clearly, the technology is becoming a key driver for economic growth through the digitisation of industry and for society as a whole.

The emergence of AI also brings challenges which need to be addressed. An anticipatory approach is needed to deal with AI's transformation of the labour market. It is necessary to modernise Europe's education and training systems, including upskilling and reskilling European citizens. New legal and

ethical questions should also be considered. An environment of trust and accountability around the development and use of AI is needed to fully profit from the opportunities it brings.

Welcoming the signatures, Andrus Ansip, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market, and Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, said:

In Europe, any successful strategy dealing with AI needs to be cross-border. A large number of Member States agreed to work together on the opportunities and challenges brought by AI. That is excellent news. Cooperation will focus on reinforcing European AI research centres, creating synergies in R&D&I funding schemes across Europe, and exchanging views on the impact of AI on society and the economy. Member States will engage in a continuous dialogue with the Commission, which will act as a facilitator.

Building on today's commitments, the Commission will present a Communication on AI in the coming weeks.

List of signatory countries of Declaration: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK, Norway.

Other countries have joined the initiative since it was launched:

- Romania in May 2018;
- Greece in May 2018;
- Cyprus in May 2018;
- Croatia in July 2018.

## **Some Artificial Intelligence projects funded by the EU**

- MURAB - AI for health
- Aeroarms - AI for industry
- Bridget - AI for culture

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