AI excellence thriving from the lab to the market

The Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence puts forward a concrete set of joint actions for the
European Commission and Member States to create global leadership on trustworthy AI.

The 2021 review of the Coordinated Plan
includes proposals to make the EU the place where artificial intelligence (AI) excellence thrives from
the lab to the market by promoting research in AI, encouraging its uptake, and funding innovation.
The European Commission’s strategy for supporting the development and adoption of trustworthy AI
solutions is a values-driven approach which covers the whole lifecycle and focuses on building an
ecosystem of excellence. The key actions seek to:

- foster collaboration between stakeholders through Public-Private Partnerships (PPP);
- build and mobilise AI research capabilities;
- provide facilities for developers and companies to test and experiment with their latest AI-based
technologies in real-world environments;
- develop a European marketplace for trustworthy AI solutions, connecting resources and
services;
- fund and scale innovative ideas and solutions for AI.

A European Public-Private Partnership on AI, Data and Robotics

The European Public-Private Partnership (PPP) on AI, Data and Robotics brings partners from the three
communities together to deliver on some of Europe’s most pressing challenges and to leverage
funding to boost new markets. This enables the European vision of human-centric and trustworthy AI
to flourish. It establishes links to Member States and promotes coordination with national or regional
initiatives. The PPP joins the forces of founding member public-private partnerships, major European
associations and initiatives such as the Big Data Value (https://www.bdva.eu/PPP) Association (BDVA)
, euRobotics (https://www.eu-robotics.net/eurobots) , CLAIRE (https://claire-ai.org/) , ELLIS

Build and mobilise world reference AI research capabilities
in Europe

The European AI lighthouse
(https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-cl4-2022-human-02-02) brings together stakeholders from research, innovation and deployment,
to become a world reference in AI that can attract investments and the best talents in the field. The
lighthouse builds on key pillars, each of them being a network of AI excellence centres specialising in
a given topic where Europe has the potential to become a global champion. The lighthouse mobilises
the AI community to collaborate on key AI research challenges and to progress faster in joined efforts
on safe, secure and trustworthy AI applications rather than working in silos. It builds on and
complements the vibrant European network of AI excellence centres
World-class testing and experimentation facilities

To bridge the gap between AI research and deployment, and foster wide uptake of trustworthy AI across Europe, together with Member States the Commission is co-funding new testing and experimentation facilities (TEFs). These facilities will provide companies with the means to test their latest AI-based technologies in real or close-to-real conditions before bringing them to market. The first TEFs focus on the high-impact domains of manufacturing, healthcare, agri-food, smart cities and communities, and edge AI.

The European AI-on-demand platform

Envisioned as a central European marketplace for AI solutions, the European AI-on-demand platform provides easy access to AI resources and services. These include algorithms, AI-based products and solutions, expertise, services, and access to data and cloud infrastructure. By bringing together stakeholders, knowledge and resources, the AI-on-demand platform will become an AI market driver in Europe, offering a critical mass of services, an engaged community and the rapid development of tools.

European Digital Innovation Hubs

A network of around 200 European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) covering all regions of Europe aims to stimulate the broad uptake of AI, HPC, cybersecurity and other digital technologies. EDIHs will help all companies seeking to use AI technologies to become more competitive with regard to their business/production processes, products or services. As “one-stop-shops”, EDIHs can promote locally the use of tools from the AI-on-demand platform to industry, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and the public sector. They will assist companies to innovate their new products and services with AI and stimulate adoption by helping to make them market ready.

Fund and scale innovative ideas and solutions for AI

Through the Horizon Europe and Digital Europe programmes, the Commission plans to invest €1 billion per year in AI, with measures to fund and scale innovative ideas and solutions. This will build bridges between Europe’s strong AI research community and innovators, in particular start-ups and SMEs both in their early stages and in the scale-up phase. The aim is to 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 this decade. The Recovery and Resilience Facility, the largest stimulus package ever financed through the EU budget, makes €134 billion available for digital and allows Europe to amplify its ambitions and become global leader in developing cutting-edge trustworthy AI.
Communication: Fostering a European approach to AI

Press release: New rules for AI

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The Commission has adopted this week the amendment of the Digital Europe work programmes for 2024, assigning €762.7 million in funding for digital solutions to benefit citizens, public administrations, and businesses.

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The European Commission has adopted the amendment of the Digital Europe Programme Work Programmes 2023-2024

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The Commission welcomes the political agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act), proposed by the Commission in April 2021.

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EU and Canada launch Digital Partnership to strengthen strategic cooperation

Today, the EU and Canada strengthened their relationship as strategic and like-minded partners in the digital field.

Browse Artificial intelligence
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See Also

AI Excellence: Ensuring that AI works for people
The Commission is committed to ensuring AI works for people by fostering digital skills and promoting a human-centric approach to AI globally.

AI Excellence: Enabling conditions for AI’s development and uptake

The Commission has identified actions to create the right environment for the development and uptake of AI in Europe.

AI Excellence: Build strategic leadership in high-impact sectors

The 2021 review of the Coordinated Plan on AI puts forward seven sectoral action areas where the EU can build strategic leadership

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/ai-lab-market