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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager

On behalf of the European Commission

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It is important to develop European large language models (LLMs) that reflect the diversity of EU languages and culture. To do so, there is a need to increase the availability of European language data, as many EU languages are underrepresented in the digital sphere.

To address this gap, under the Digital Europe Programme (DEP) the Commission is supporting the Language Data Space and the Alliance for Language Technologies EDIC (ALT-EDIC)¹, involving 25 Member States.

Also under DEP, the Commission supports the creation of AI Factories² where computing power, data, and talent are combined to develop advanced generative artificial intelligence (AI) models.

Two of the four winners of the 'Large AI Grand Challenge' prizes funded under Horizon Europe³⁴ focus on linguistic diversity, one training European LLMs in the 24 official EU languages and another targeting Balto-Slavic languages⁵ spoken by 155 million individuals within the EU and candidate countries.

To speed up technology adoption, the ALT-EDIC will allow European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to fine-tune available LLMs for their specific applications and market needs. This will support a level playing field and user choice.

Companies providing products or services based on LLMs may rely on core platform services, such as operating systems. Where core platform services are run by entities with significant economic power, the Digital Markets Act (DMA)⁶ can prevent anti-competitive behaviours, ensuring equal access to hardware and software and user control of default settings. This enhances users' ability to use services that adopt the LLM of their choice.

¹ https://language-data-space.ec.europa.eu/related-initiatives/alt-edic_en

² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-factories>

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁴ <https://aiboost-project.eu/>

⁵ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-awards-large-ai-grand-challenge-prizes-innovative-european-ai-startups-and-smes>

⁶ https://digital-markets-act.ec.europa.eu/about-dma_en