

EN

E-002609/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.3.2025)

The EU's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act¹ aims at ensuring trustworthy and human-centric AI while fostering innovation and AI uptake in the EU. The Commission is also taking additional non-legislative measures to stimulate innovation and AI uptake.

The Commission is preparing the Apply AI strategy to boost industrial and public sector uses of AI: a public consultation will be launched soon.

The Commission is funding AI research and development under Horizon Europe² complemented by the AI for Science initiative³.

To support business deployment of AI, the Commission is building on two existing initiatives of the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)⁴: European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)⁵ and Testing Experimentation Facilities (TEFs)⁶. Over 150 EDIHs have delivered over 20 000 services to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to support their digitalisation and use of AI. TEFs in four sectors (healthcare, manufacturing, smart cities and agri-food) help SMEs test AI. DEP also funds the euroLLM project⁷ to develop an open-source Large Language Model that covers all official EU languages.

At the Action Summit in Paris, the Commission launched InvestAI⁸, an initiative to mobilise EUR 200 billion for investment in AI, including a European fund of EUR 20 billion for AI gigafactories. This large AI infrastructure is needed for open development of AI models and to make Europe an AI continent.

AI Regulatory Sandboxes will allow developers test AI in controlled conditions, facilitating compliance with the AI Act. The EU-funded 'AI on Demand Platform'⁹ connects innovators with AI tools and expertise.

The Commission is internationally promoting the EU's approach to trustworthy AI. This includes collaboration with institutions including standardisation bodies (e.g. CEN-CENELEC).

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1689/oj/eng>

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/9224c3b4-f529-4b48-b21b-879c442002a2_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-investing-to-shape-our-future.pdf

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/artificial-intelligence-ai-science_en

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme>

⁵ <https://european-digital-innovation-hubs.ec.europa.eu/edih-catalogue>

⁶ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/testing-and-experimentation-facilities>

⁷ <https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/open-source-observatory-osor/news/euollm-pioneering-european-open-source-ai>

⁸ <https://digital-skills-jobs.europa.eu/en/latest/news/commission-launches-new-investai-initiative-mobilise-eu200-billion-investment-ai>

⁹ <https://www.ai4europe.eu>