



## **Value and Impact through Synergy, Interaction and coOperation of Networks of AI Excellence Centres**

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 952070

### **Deliverable D2.2**

**Minutes from annual meetings with coordinators  
and steering bodies of NoEs**

Deliverable 2.2 Minutes from annual meetings with coordinators and steering bodies of NoEs

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Deliverable 2.2 Minutes from annual meetings with coordinators and steering bodies of NoEs

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Deliverable 2.2 Minutes from annual meetings with coordinators and steering bodies of NoEs

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## Executive Summary

This document is a deliverable of Work Package 2 ‘Mobilizing the European AI community’, within the EU ICT-48 Coordination and Support Action project VISION. It contains an overview of regular cross-NoE working groups and meetings that VISION facilitated or participated in, and contains the meeting minutes of the monthly ICT-48 Project Managers meetings and the notes from the ICT-48 Project Coordinators meetings. Moreover, an overview of the cross-NoE working groups and communication is provided. Together this forms the basis for effective communication, networking, sharing of expertise, best practices, methods and data across the NoEs and beyond. It fosters active engagement of all ICT-48 NoEs, and facilitates the accommodation of new networks such as ELSA and EuRobin into the community.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Objectives

The aims of VISION include community and network building (focused on community at large; shaping a common voice; overcoming fragmentation, creating critical mass) making sure to include actors outside the NoEs; position the NoEs at the core of academic push on AI. This document, Deliverable 2.2, provides the activities that are mainly related to the following objectives:

1. Stimulate and facilitate effective cooperation between the four NoEs, and with the AI community at large, especially where different communities within AI are involved, with the goal of enabling break-throughs that require expertise across diverse areas of AI;
2. Ensure effective communication, networking, sharing of expertise, best practices, methods and data across the four NoEs and beyond;

### 1.2 Structure of the document

The document is outlined as follows:

First the Project Coordinators' meetings and Project Managers' meetings are listed. Subsequently, an overview is presented of the (other) cross-NoE working groups and meetings that have been set-up to further coordinate and collaborate on cross-NoE challenges and activities.

## 2. Project management and coordination meetings

The annual meetings with coordinators and steering bodies of NoEs that were originally planned have been replaced with the project coordination meetings (organised VISION and later by the EC) and the project management meetings (organised by VISION), as agreed upon with the EC and the NoEs. The meeting frequency has been discussed and jointly decided with the coordinators of the NoEs.

### 2.1 Project managers meetings

So far, from December 2021 until August 2023, 19 project managers meetings were held in which the project managers from the ICT-48 networks TAILOR, AI4Media, HumanE-AI-Net, ELISE and VISION participated. In December 2022 we welcomed the new network ELSA, and euROBIN started to participate from January 2023 onwards, and new networks will be welcomed when they start. Members from EC DG-CNECT joined on a regular basis, and depending on the topics, other NoE members were invited on an ad hoc basis to provide expert input on for example communication activities or ecosystem mapping. Agenda-items of the meetings ranged from aligning timelines and reporting on amendment progress, to sharing best practices on gender balance and preparation of a joint response to the consolidated review report from the EC.

## Deliverable 2.2 Minutes from annual meetings with coordinators and steering bodies of NoEs

The recent face-to-face meeting in Siena was dedicated to team building and discussions on sustainability.

The minutes of the 19 project managers meetings held so far can be made available confidentially upon request. Monthly meetings will remain to be scheduled by VISION until August 2024.

Date		Date
14 DEC 2021	30 AUG 2022	21 MAR 2023
18 JAN 2022	20 SEPT 2022	18 APR 2023
15 FEB 2022	18 Oct 2022	16 MAY 2023
15 MAR 2022	15 NOV 2022	8 JUN 2023 F2F Siena
11 APR 2022	20 DEC 2022	20 JUN 2023
17 MAY 2022	17 JAN 2023	
19 JUL 2022	21 FEB 2023	

### 2.2 Project Coordinators meetings

Between 2021 and August 2023, 10 project coordinators meetings were held. In these meetings the project coordinators from the ICT-48 networks TAILOR, AI4Media, HumanE-AI-Net, ELISE and VISION participated, and often also the project managers joined the calls. Until May 2022 these were organised and hosted by VISION. From April 2022 EC DG-CNECT joined these meetings, and started to host and schedule the meetings from June 2022 onwards.

An overview of the meetings held so far is provided below. The materials of the meetings can be made available confidentially upon request.

Date	Host
30 June 2021	VISION
20 Sept 2021	VISION
27 Sept 2021	VISION
19 Apr 2022	VISION
20 Jun 2022	EC
21 Sep 2022	EC
6 Dec 2022	EC
21 Feb 2023	EC



Date	Host
5 May 2023	EC
19 Jun 2023	EC
4 July 2023 F2F workshop	EC

### 3. Joint activities related to cross-platform affairs

#### 3.1 Overview of Cross-NoE interactions

Several Cross-NoE working groups have been formed and regular meetings were set-up to enhance collaboration, support and coordinate activities and to tackle cross-NoE challenges. VISION also organised 3 community workshops on cross-NoE discussion topics. An overview is provided in the table below, which also includes the meetings listed in section 2 for completeness.

Name/Topic	Meeting frequency	Lead
<b>Project Managers meeting</b>	Monthly	VISION: ULEI
<b>Communications Club</b>	Monthly	VISION: CIIRC
<b>AIDA</b>	As needed	AI4Media, supported by VISION
<b>Industry working group</b>	Every 2 months	VISION: Inria
<b>Ecosystem mapping</b>	As needed	VISION: TNO
<b>Joint strategic research agenda</b>	As needed	TAILOR, ELISE, supported by VISION
<b>Project Coordinators meeting</b>	As needed	VISION (until April 2022), EC (from June 2022)
<b>Community workshops</b>	3 organised	VISION: TNO

Besides, ad hoc meetings were organised on specific topics as needed, which is beyond the scope of this report.

#### 3.2 Joint activities and cross-platform communication support

To facilitate cross-NoE communication, the VISION team installed the Mattermost platform in the first year of the project, for sharing best practices, interactions and discussions within and across the ICT-48 NoEs, in agreement with the other ICT-48 NoE's, as described in Deliverable 2.1 of this project. Currently, the platform has 4232 users, and 95 active channels. Mattermost is perceived as an additional communication tool and channel, thus not the only one, and is effective for part of the community, for example for the CLAIRE team which contains 3000 individuals. Besides, the VISION communication team is using it as a dissemination channel, and also other users employ it for adhoc

and personal interactions. In line with the suggestions during the M18 review of the VISION project, it was agreed to deprioritize further development of the Mattermost platform. As the platform has its place and will be further in use, Inria is keeping the platform technically operational and secure. It is recommended to consider the invitation to Mattermost to other projects and ecosystems that can use it in future.

VISION further promotes and facilitates cross-NoE interactions by other ways of communication, such as the website and the shared newsletter, to which all networks provide contributions. Also the organisation, promotion and communication of community workshops and other events where people can meet in person and interact with each other strengthens the sense of community and advances the work on cross-platform challenges.

#### **4. Concluding remarks**

The various cross-NoE working groups, workshops, regular project managers meetings, the meetings between the project coordinators with the EC and the different communication tools provide solid groundwork for effective communication, networking, and sharing of expertise, best practices, methods and data across the four NoEs and beyond. It fosters active engagement of all ICT-48 NoEs in discussions and joint activities, and facilitates the accommodation of new networks as ELSA and euRobin into the community. Ultimately, it resulted in an active and still growing community across the networks, which helps people in finding each other and collaborating, and which embraces new people and networks.