



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

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of the NoEs and VISION activities

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Executive Summary

This document is the outcome of T2.6 Sustainability of NoEs and support mechanisms in **Work Package 2 “Mobilizing the European AI community”** within the EU Coordination and Support Action (CSA) “VISION” financed by the European Commission through the Horizon 2020 programme under the H2020-ICT-48-2020 call for proposals.

This deliverable, written as a component of the Horizon 2020 project called VISION, focuses on the long-term viability and strategic orientations of Networks of AI Excellence (NoEs) and associated initiatives. It identifies critical activities to be sustained, community prioritisations, potential funding mechanisms, and actionable recommendations to ensure long-term impact. These insights aim to support the European Commission (EC) in fostering a united and competitive European AI community that extends beyond the funding period of the NoEs. To facilitate the continued influence and worth of AI excellence networks in Europe after the funding period of the ICT-48 projects has ended, the VISION project served as a facilitator within the ICT-48 community.

The sustainability plan for the Networks of Excellence (NoEs) highlights key activities with potential for long-term impact, including AIDA, the AI Media Observatory, Cross-NoE Coordination, Ecosystem Mapping, ESSAI, Academic-Industry Collaboration and the Joint SRA. Community feedback underscores the importance of sustaining all proposed activities, with AIDA, Cross-NoE Coordination and the Joint SRA identified as most crucial for advancing AI education, innovation, and competitiveness in Europe.

Financial sustainability hinges on diversified funding mechanisms, including programs by the European Commission, national and regional initiatives, private sector sponsorships and revenue-generation models. Emphasis is placed on the CERN for AI initiative as a dedicated agency to support impactful projects and a new CSA to embed strategic NoE activities into broader EU frameworks.

Recommendations include formalising governance structures, integrating AI into education at all levels, investing in infrastructure, fostering public-private collaboration and ensuring cross-NoE cohesion through unified branding and communication. These efforts are essential to build and maintain European leadership in AI and to deliver societal and economic benefits across diverse sectors.

We conclude that European leadership in human-centred, trustworthy AI and its impact on European economy and society depends on the sustainability of AI activities. A unified approach with strong funding and strategic planning can boost global competitiveness, foster a cohesive AI ecosystem, and drive societal and economic benefits. The NoE initiatives offer a key opportunity to strengthen European capabilities in AI and ensure lasting impact, supported by continued collaboration between the NoE project partners and backing by the European Commission.

1. Introduction

1.1. Objectives

This document identifies and outlines the various strategies and approaches for ensuring the sustainability of the results and activities developed within the the first generation of the ICT-48 Networks of Excellence (NoEs), which are ending in 2024, by leveraging existing resources and partnerships to maximise impact; engagement with existing or arising communities within and beyond the NoEs; integration of the results obtained by the ICT-48 NoEs into policies and practices of other institutions and initiatives; and exploring various funding resources and mechanisms.

The aim of this report is a direct reflection of the original objective of the creation of the VISION CSA. While mechanisms have been developed and implemented to concretise the original goals of VISION, further action needs to be taken to ensure the continuity of the activities implemented and the ongoing support for the remaining NoEs and the European AI community, ensuring the continued impact and value to the networks and the AI community at large, beyond the funding period of the ICT-48 projects.

1.2. Overview of VISION Mechanisms & Instruments

While the overall aim of the VISION project is to reinforce, interconnect and mobilise the European AI community, and to orchestrate and accelerate Europe's transition to a world-leading position in the research, development and deployment of trustworthy, human-centred AI technologies, its mandate to support the European AI community includes the specific goals of:

- Mobilising the European AI community
- Strengthening the synergies between Europe's AI networks of excellence
- Fostering strong connections between academia and industry
- Developing a European approach to AI skills education
- Promoting the EU as an attractive environment for AI research and researchers

To reach these goals, certain mechanisms and instruments have been developed that enable the objectives of the CSA, such as the exchange of best practices & expertise across networks and beyond; the creation and strengthening of links between academia & industry; developing cross-disciplinary AI training initiatives & curricula; the integration of scientific road mapping and strategic development from across the NoEs; the development of European AI vision and brand, mapping of competencies in the European AI ecosystem; and establishing and maintaining connections and complementarity with other initiatives.

Complementing the vision of the European Commission for a "top-down" strategy of the ecosystem of excellence in AI, Data and Robotics with these elements, the NoEs are strongly linked to Adra, the private side of the public-private partnership that plays a key role in bringing knowledge from the European research community to industry, and the AI-on-Demand (AloD) platform, which should serve as the backbone of these networks as they aim at strengthening it in enriching its capacity in terms of tools, competencies, services, to make the AloD the reference and quality label for resources in AI. There are further interactions with other European AI ecosystems

such as various [Horizon Europe](#) (HE) projects, the [Testing and Experimentation Facilities](#) (TEFs) and the [European Digital Innovation Hubs](#) (EDIHs).

To maximise the impact and sustainability of successful and effective NoE activities that will no longer be funded after the end of the lifetime of the ICT-48 projects, VISION has had to coordinate closely with all NoEs, AI4Europe, Adra and the Founding Organisations of Adra (in particular CLAIRE (now CAIRNE), ELLIS and EurAI as representatives of the AI community), and the European Commission, fostering synergies within the community, facilitating alignment and identifying potential collaborations, mechanisms and models that will ensure that activities considered.

1.3. Overview of the Collaboration Process

To properly represent the realities of sustaining the operations of the various activities developed and implemented, this document was produced together with all 9 of the EU AI & Robotics NoEs - [AI4Media](#), [ELISE](#), [HumanE-AI-Net](#), [TAILOR](#) (since 2020); [ELSA](#), [euROBIN](#) (since 2022); and [ELIAS](#), [dAIEDGE](#), [ENFIELD](#) (since 2023) - actively and equally, as well as with relevant platforms and organisations that support the European AI community, such as the [AI, Data and Robotics Association \(Adra\)](#), the [AI on Demand platform \(AIoD\)](#) and the [AI4EU foundation](#), as well as the major European AI associations: the [Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe \(CAIRNE, formerly CLAIRE\)](#), the [European Association for Artificial Intelligence \(EurAI\)](#) and the [European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems \(ELLIS\)](#).

Initial discussions were held in January 2024 with the NoE Project Coordinators, with further calls for discussion and idea collection on what should be sustained with European Commission representatives on 15 March 2024, as well as further coordination calls with the VISION consortium, NoE project managers, and NoE project coordinators in March-August.

Several surveys ([Annex 1](#) and [Annex 2](#)) were circulated within the NoEs to inform this deliverable, in particular, to collect information on the various activities to be sustained and for the NoE community to prioritise these activities in terms of most desired to be sustained. The data collected in these surveys will also be used for Ecosystem mapping activities. Sensitive data, such as names and e-mail addresses, were given voluntarily.

At the NoE Community Workshop, in Thessaloniki, Greece, the Sustainability Community Session “Worldcafé on sustainability of the NoE community” was held to obtain feedback from the NoEs.

While most, if not all NoEs also have their individual sustainability plans, not all of these were ready or available at the time of this consultation, so the this document is informed by the various meetings, surveys and the workshop to better formulate an overview of the sustainability opportunities of all prioritised impactful NoE activities.

2. NoE Activities to be Sustained

To accurately ascertain the suitability of sustainability of NoE activities that are at risk of being discontinued after the end of the funding period of the ICT-48 NoEs, the relevant project coordinators and managers were asked to submit information on each of the activities, share any existing sustainability plans and participate in coordination calls. The NoE community was then polled as to which activities should be prioritised and invited to attend the Sustainability Community Session “Worldcafé on sustainability of the NoE community” at the 4th Community Workshop, to understand what further issues, comments and suggestions the community had for the future of ICT-48 NoE activities.

2.1. Activity Information Collection

The survey “VISION Community Sustainability Survey - Activity Information Collection from NoE managers and coordinators” ([Annex 1](#)) was circulated to the various NoE coordinators and managers between May and June of 2024, to collect information on the various NoE activities that are in consideration to be sustained beyond the funding period of the ICT-48 projects, such as the current and expected reach of these activities, as well as the current and projected costs and personnel involvement (both in kind and funded) necessary for the coordination and functioning of these activities and reach of these activities.

Further information can be found on each of the identified activities in the deliverables of the various responsible NoEs.

According to the results of the survey, the activities that are intended to be sustained beyond ICT-48 are, in alphabetical order:

2.1.1. AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA)

The International [AI Doctoral Academy – AIDA](#) enhances AI education across Europe, attracting PhD students and postdocs, as well as other external students/scientists, and promoting excellence. It provides a variety of educational programs and resources, standardising AI education across European universities.

Specifically, AIDA offers a range of courses ([short](#), [semester](#), [seasonal schools](#)), [AI excellence lectures](#) and [educational resources](#) to AIDA and external students attending courses, lecturers, individuals attending online AI excellence lectures, and educational content curators. This initiative supports universities, lecturers, students and researchers by enhancing their visibility, educational offerings, collaborative opportunities and access to AI resources, and has been submitted to the AIoD platform.

○ **Table 1. Current and projected AIDA KPIs**

	<i>Current (per year)</i>	<i>Projected (per year, over the next 5 years)</i>

Target audience	General public, Academics, Industry, Policy makers, Students / Early career researchers	General public, Academics, Industry, Policy makers, Students / Early career researchers
Reach / Number of participants	~2,000	~2,000
Number of PMs required	37	38
Budget	€158,000.00	€167,200.00

AIDA is considering continuing to enhance AI education across Europe, by offering a range of courses (short, semester, seasonal schools), and AI excellence lectures, attracting PhD students and postdocs and promoting excellence, as well as continuing to provide a variety of educational programs and educational resources and promote its AI curriculum and excellence benchmarking principles towards standardising and uplifting AI education across European Universities. If implemented, it will continue supporting universities, lecturers, students and researchers by enhancing their visibility, educational offerings, collaborative opportunities and access to AI resources. As non-EU Universities can become AIDA associate members, an effort may be made to globalise AIDA.

AIDA may also expand its activities to cover more external students, scientists and industrial audiences, in cooperation with other educational entities, such as [IEEE](#), [EIT](#) and other players, including [Adra](#).

2.1.2. AI Media Observatory

The [AI Media Observatory](#) is a knowledge platform that monitors and curates relevant research on AI in media, provides expert perspectives on the potentials and challenges that AI poses for the media sector and allows stakeholders to easily get in touch with relevant experts in the field via a directory. As a crucial resource for media professionals, AI researchers, policymakers, educators and anyone interested in the impact of AI on media, it supports a multidisciplinary community working towards responsible AI use in media and contributes to the broader discussion of AI's impact on society, the economy and individuals.

Grounded in expertise from over 30 leading research and industry partners, the Observatory offers a multi-faceted view of AI's integration into the media landscape. It features three sections:

- *Your AI Media Feed*: A repository for the latest updates and events related to AI in media, highlighting trends, policy shifts and social implications.
- *Let's Talk AI and Media*: An engaging space using video formats to present expert insights on the opportunities and challenges associated with AI in the media world.
- *Find an AI Media Expert*: A directory allowing users to locate and contact experts in various aspects of media and AI.

Together, these components create a rich ecosystem of knowledge, enabling stakeholders to navigate AI in media confidently. The Observatory supports responsible AI advancement and contributes significantly to understanding the role and effects of AI.

The activity has been advertised on the AIoD platform and the European AI Alliance blog, with plans to submit it to the Horizon Results Platform.

○ **Table 2. Current and projected AI Media Observatory KPIs**

	Current (per year)	Projected (per year, over the next 5 years)
Target audience	General public, Academics, Industry, Policy makers, Students / Early career researchers	General public, Academics, Industry, Policy makers, Students / Early career researchers
Reach / Number of participants	6,803 users with 9,567 visits	Observatory 1.0 - expect a slow gradual increase in users and visits Observatory 2.0 - possibilities for more radical growth
Number of PMs required	17.5	10.5
Budget	€32,000.00	Observatory 1.0 - €10,000.00 Observatory 2.0 - €77,000.00

Over the next five years, the Observatory will significantly impact the community and foster collaborations with similar initiatives worldwide, such as other Observatories or research centres focused on AI and media. Its ongoing topics, such as copyright lawsuits on Gen AI, ethical concerns about AI, disinformation, Hollywood strikes and deepfakes, will remain relevant.

To ensure its sustainability, different models are being explored, each offering varying levels of service:

- *Observatory 1.0*: Focuses on technical maintenance and daily operations without strategic development, limiting dissemination to social media. Funded based on a sponsorship model of either monetary support or resource support by existing AI4Media partners.
- *Observatory 2.0*: Expands the scope with new features, unique content and wider dissemination through conferences and events. Future directions will depend on funding and organisational support. This could be supported through another EU-funded project or a new grant application of AI4Media consortium members.

Although, as of this writing, this has yet to be decided, the [KULeuven Centre for IT& IP Law](#) may replace the [University of Amsterdam](#) as the activity leader.

For further information on the AI Media Observatory please refer to the AI4Media deliverable D11.6 "Final Exploitation and Sustainability Plan".

2.1.3. Cross-NoE Activities Coordination and Communications

The area of Cross-NoE Activities Coordination and Communications comprises activities crucial to the success of a group of related projects, such as the NoEs, and bringing together the wider scientific community. Work in this area makes contributions to success stories in the area of Research and Innovation as well as to the AIoD Platform. Specifically, it includes the following:

- Joint event on topics of common interest, e.g. [Community Workshops](#), [AI open days](#), community meetings
- Regular strategic and coordination meetings of cross-NoE groups
- [Branding](#)
- Communication channels management
- The EU AI NoE Highlights slide deck and [promotional videos](#) ([YT Playlist](#))

The goal of the Community Workshops is to promote interaction and mentoring among the NoEs and to create a sense of community among the newly founded NoEs for the project duration. The intended impact is to find concrete opportunities for synergies among the networks in various topics, such as joint research agendas, mapping, communication and branding.

So far, [four collaborative workshops](#) have been organised. These workshops are relatively cost-effective, highly interactive, provide an opportunity to enhance the participants and to exchange experiences on the activities of the NoEs, as well as stimulate collaboration among the different participants, including the EC and stakeholders from the wider European AI community and major AI and robotics initiatives ([AI4EU](#), [ICT-49](#), [AI-MAN cluster of ICT-38](#), [MAS4AI](#), [ICT-38](#), [Adra](#), [BDVA](#), [CAIRNE](#), [ELLIS](#), [EurAI](#) and [euRobotics](#)).

○ **Table 3. Current and projected Cross NoE Activities Coordination and Communications KPIs**

	<i>Current (per year)</i>	<i>Projected (per year, over the next 5 years)</i>
Target audience	Academics, General public, Students / Early career researchers, Industry, Policymakers	Policymakers, Academics, Industry, General public, Students / Early career researchers
Reach / Number of participants	500+	2000+
Number of PMs required	5	5
Budget	€30,000.00	€30,000.00

These activities, particularly the Community Workshops, are very popular with the NoE community (see Section 2.2 on [Prioritisation of Activities by the Community](#)). Capitalising on the existing efforts of VISION and ICT-48 NoEs will be essential for the continuation and development of these activities, for the evolution of the AI NoE brand that will support the effort of the EC in creating a strong European approach to AI, and to foster societal, ethical, economic and environmental impact through cross-NoEs branded events and activities that complement the scientific goals of the projects. The Community Workshops should continue to be chaired/hosted by NoE partners via

a (voluntary) rotation system (e.g., the 3rd Community Workshops was held in Siena, hosted by TAILOR and the 4th was held in Thessaloniki, hosted by AI4Media). These highly effective and reasonably priced workshops bring the NoEs together to discuss various strategic and scientific topics, as well as promoting social activities that ensure smoother collaboration and cohesion.

These activities that foster greater impact of the NoEs activities, through joint communications, cohesive branding and community workshops, have great potential to be developed further. Towards that end, it is important to identified and explored ways to secure resources, both financial and in terms of personnel, together with the European Commission to foster a strong European community of projects and initiatives supporting the European approach to AI, either in the framework of new NoEs (current projects) or similar projects launched in the future. These various communication and event planning activities could be led by a Cross-NoE organising committee of the remaining NoEs, which could take an active role if a common consensus is found across these NoEs in cooperation with the European Commission. The workshops, in particular, could be developed beyond the lifetime of the NoE projects into a high-level EU conference, potentially implemented via Adra and/or its founding organisations.

2.1.4. Ecosystem Mapping

The [Ecosystem Mapping](#) tool, targeted at policymakers and academics, gives an overview of the research, development and innovation (R&D&I) activities on AI-related themes across Europe and associated countries and maps organisations active in specific AI themes intersected with specific application domains. It is intended as a first step towards information services that empower the European AI research & innovation ecosystem.

This mapping is an initiative from VISION in consultation with the European Commission and it is conducted in close collaboration with the nine AI Networks of Excellence (NoE): AI4Media, dAIEDGE, ELISE, ELIAS, ELSA, ENFIELD, euROBIN, HumanE-AI-Net and TAILOR. VISION established a working committee for joint decision-making during the process. This working committee consists of one representative of each NoE and is chaired by VISION partner TNO.

○ **Table 4. Current and projected Ecosystem Mapping KPIs**

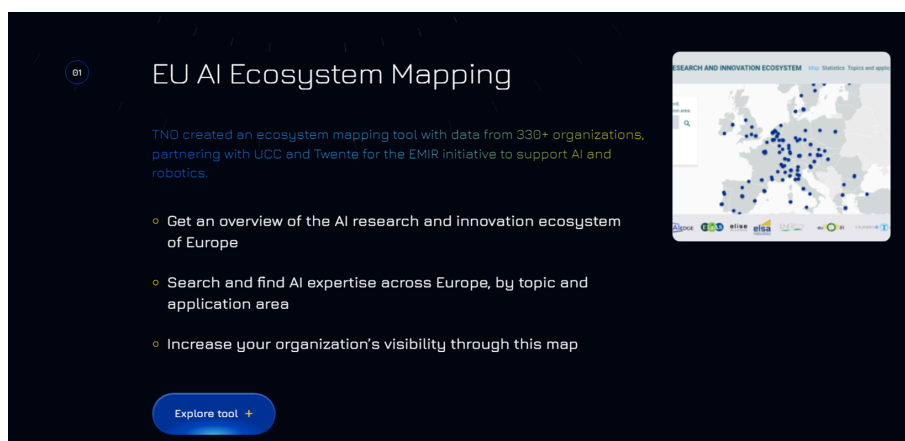
	<i>Current (per year)</i>	<i>Projected (per year, over the next 5 years)</i>
Target audience	Policy-makers, Academics	Policy-makers, Academics, Industry, Intermediaries (e.g., DIHs/EDIHs)
Reach / Number of participants	240	2000
Number of PMs required	2	3
Budget	€55,000.00	€100,000.00

The sustainability strategy is, in collaboration with the AIoD platform and Adra, to set up a *governance* structure and mandate for further development of the ecosystem mapping, and to *integrate* and hand over the tool beyond the project lifetime.

As a governance structure and mandate, an [Adra topic group on ecosystem mapping](#) has been proposed by VISION and accepted. This effort joins forces with other mapping efforts, centered around the work done by VISION and the NoEs, and led by two VISION consortium partners.

The mission of the Adra topic group is to maximise the effectiveness of the AI, Data and Robotics (ADR) community by supporting the development and maintenance of ecosystem mapping and information services that are of value to the AI-data-robotics (ADR) research & innovation community. In the long term, this will lead to coordinated information mapping, providing valuable services, a focused channel for interaction with policymakers, and a shared language for the ADR community.

In collaboration with AI4Europe, the tool has been integrated in the AI-on-Demand Platform. In this solution, TNO agreed to host the tool until the implementation of the sustainability plan has been completed and the hosting of the tool is transferred.



○ **Figure 1. The ecosystem mapping as featured on the AI on Demand Platform**

2.1.5. European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence (ESSAI)

The [European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence \(ESSAI\)](#) is a new, annually recurring event organised under the auspices of the [European Association for Artificial Intelligence \(EurAI\)](#) since 2023. ESSAI aims to serve as a central hub for PhD students and young researchers working on “all aspects of AI.” The need for such a school emerged from early discussions within CLAIRE (now CAIRNE) and evolved into a concrete proposal by the [ICT-48 NoE TAILOR](#), eventually finalised by EurAI with support from CLAIRE. The structure of ESSAI has been deeply inspired by the [European Summer School on Logic, Language, and Information \(ESSLLI\)](#), which has been organised since 1989 with the support and approval of the [Association for Logic, Language, and Information \(FoLLI\)](#). ESSAI aims to develop into an important meeting place and forum for discussion among students and researchers interested in the interdisciplinary study of Artificial Intelligence in a broad sense. One of the main attractions of ESSAI is its unique scientific and social atmosphere.

In 2024, the 2nd European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence and 21st Advanced Course on Artificial Intelligence ([ESSAI & ACAI 2024](#)) was further expanded into a two-week event taking place on the premises of the [National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos"](#). ACAI-2024 offered 13 invited tutorials (90min each) delivered by international experts, while ESSAI-2024, together with the fourth TAILOR Summer School, offered 30 courses (5x90min each) on a range of current topics of AI, solicited through an open call for course proposals and selected by an international program committee, and hosted 224 participants in person with another 50 online, around 100 of which were supported by TAILOR.

○ **Table 5. Current and projected ESSAI KPIs**

	<i>Current (per year)</i>	<i>Projected (per year, over the next 5 years)</i>
Target audience	Academics, Students / Early career researchers, Industry	Academics, Students / Early career researchers, Industry
Reach / Number of participants	500 in 2023, 200 in 2024	200-300
Number of PMs required	15	15
Budget	€130,000.00	€130,000.00 - €200,000.00

In the future, the school will continue to be led by EurAI and will maintain its format, though it will be condensed to one impactful week. As the significance of AI continues to grow, so will the importance of ESSAI, drawing in both students and distinguished lecturers from across Europe and the globe. The upcoming editions of the school aim to expand its offerings, particularly in the field of machine learning, by appointing a renowned European researcher in this domain as one of the PC Chairs. This strategic enhancement will elevate the prestige and academic rigour of ESSAI, ensuring its place as a premier destination for cutting-edge AI education.

2.1.6. Academic and Industry Collaboration and Theme Development Workshops

Academic and Industry collaboration during the lifetime of the NoE R&I projects has facilitated discussions, developed results and technological advances on specific use cases over short periods, and contributed to the strengthening of existing and new relationships between academic and industrial partners.

One of the most visible activities was the co-organisation of the [Theme Development Workshops](#) (TDW) that cut across multiple ICT-48 NoEs, while bringing together researchers, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to identify industrial trends and needs and match these to AI capabilities in Europe. These one-day workshops with a limited number of pre-selected participants and a programme consisting of plenary presentations and focused discussions in smaller groups and breakout sessions, have been shared to the Research and Innovation success stories.

The TDW format has been originally developed by CLAIRE (now CAIRNE), and a series of TDWs has been organised in close cooperation with the ecosystem of the EU AI Networks of Excellence (NoEs). The cross-cutting TDWs with all six NoEs, notably AI4Media, ELISE, ELSA, euROBIN,

HumanE-AI-Net and TAILOR as well as CLAIRE and ELLIS. Particular TDWs have also been organised mainly by the TAILOR and HumanE-AI-Net projects.

The objectives are to jointly identify the strategic AI research areas and challenges in the scope of the workshop and to set up collaborative structures for further addressing them beyond the event. The main results will be summarised and complemented by a market analysis and trend foresights to provide a comprehensive overview of AI capabilities and challenges in Europe (see VISION D4.4 “European AI Trend Radar”). The "[Academic-Industry Collaboration Best Practices](#)" have already been launched.

○ **Table 6. Current and projected Academic-Industry Collaboration and TDWs KPIs**

	<i>Current (per year)</i>	<i>Projected (per year, over the next 5 years)</i>
Target audience	Policymakers, Industry, General public, Academics, Students / Early career researchers	Policymakers, Industry, General public, Academics, Students / Early career researchers
Reach / Number of participants	200	200+
Number of PMs required	12	18
Budget	€120,000.00	€200,000.00

These activities will be transferred to the CERTAIN consortium, a collaborative initiative involving various partners, legally part of the [German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence \(DFKI\)](#), focused on researching, developing, deploying, standardising and promoting Trusted AI techniques, to provide guarantees for and certification of AI systems, and it allows for project collaboration with both internal and external partners.

The CERTAIN consortium aims to work across the value chain from basic research to society, focusing on the development, optimisation and implementation of Trusted AI techniques to provide guarantees and certifications for AI systems in specific use cases. In addition to research, the consortium collaborates with industry, standardisation bodies and political and societal stakeholders to set certification requirements, define AI trust labels and foster AI literacy.

After establishing itself as a local and regional focal point in Phase 1 and expanding to become a widely visible European lighthouse centre in Phase 2, CERTAIN plans for further growth in the future through the addition of new partners and thematic pillars, as well as the federation of multiple lighthouse centres.

2.1.7. Strategic research planning - Joint SRA

The NoEs [Joint Strategic Research Agenda \(SRA\)](#) is a collaboratively edited consolidation of the different [Strategic Research Agendas \(SRAs\)](#) that have already been published by the NoEs (AI4Media, ELISE, HUMANE-AI and TAILOR). The EU’s six AI Networks of Excellence Centres in AI and Robotics (NoEs) – [AI4Media](#), [ELISE](#), [ELSA](#), [euROBIN](#), [HUMANE-AI-Net](#), and [TAILOR](#) – are providing a framework for delivering these ambitions, by advancing the frontiers of AI, data and robotics research and its translation to real-world impact in different domains.

The European Union’s aspirations for AI, Data and Robotics (ADR) “made in Europe” demand an ambitious approach to advancing European AI research and development, and the NoEs Joint SRA provides valuable input to the [Adra SRIDA](#).

○ **Table 7. Current and projected Joint SRA KPIs**

	<i>Current (per year)</i>	<i>Projected (per year, over the next 5 years)</i>
Target audience	Industry, Policymakers, Academics	Industry, Policymakers, Academics
Reach / Number of participants	100 (contributors)	10 - 50 (contributors)
Number of PMs required	2 (first version 2023) + 0.125 (update 2024)	1 (2 updates)
Budget	-	€60,000.00 - €80,000.00

While TAILOR and ELISE have been leading the first version of the joint SRA, with the end of these projects in 2024, this activity will be taken over by the remaining NoEs. By building on the previous Joint SRA, the research challenges identified by the first NoE could be maintained and updated as AI across the globe develops and new NoEs are added. Although the continuation of this activity after the end of the last NoE is uncertain, in principle, Adra is likely to take over this activity in the context of the Adra SRIDA, with contributions from CAIRNE (formerly CLAIRE) and ELLIS as founding members representing the AI community. The Joint SRA has already been very important in the work on the Adra SRIDA.

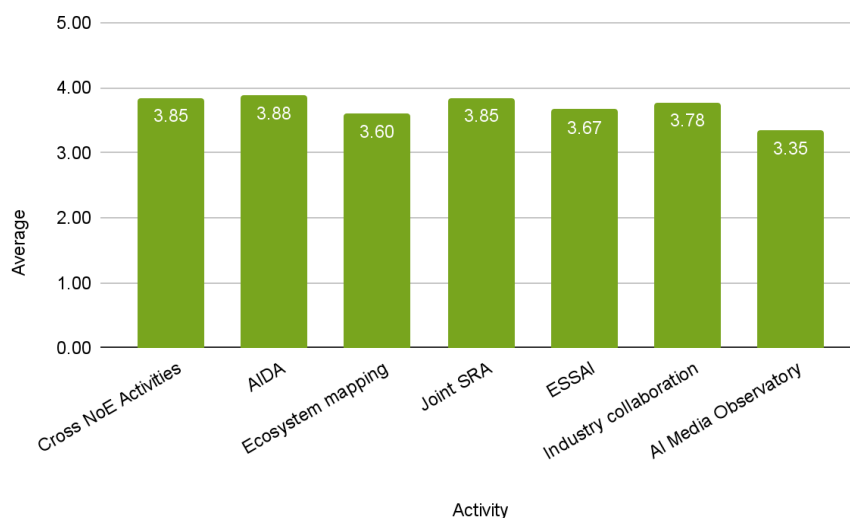
2.2. Prioritisation of Activities by the Community

In the survey “VISION Community Sustainability Survey - NoE Activity Prioritisation by Community” ([Annex 2](#)) participants were asked to indicate how important it is to them to continue/sustain each of the presented activities (Cross NoE Activities Coordination; AIDA; Ecosystem mapping; Joint SRA; ESSAI; Industry collaboration and TDW; AI Media Observatory), to generate a prioritised list of NoEs activities that the community wants to sustain beyond ICT-48.

This survey was circulated several times between May and June 2024 to the NoE community at large, including during the Sustainability Community Session “Worldcafé on Sustainability of the NoE Community” at the 4th NoE Community Workshop on 26 June 2024.

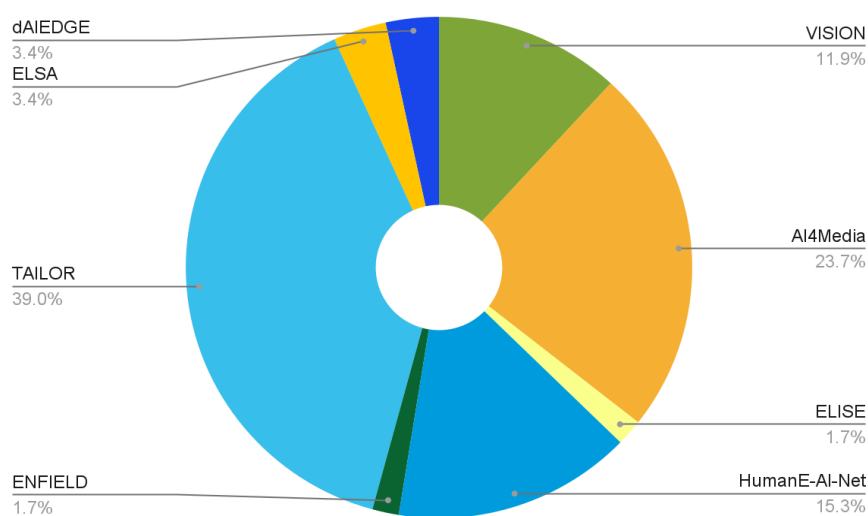
The respondents were asked to assign each activity a number between 1 (not important) and 5 (very important). A neutral option - “Do not know / can not assess” - was included for those who did not consider themselves qualified to answer to recuse themselves. The results of the survey were averaged over all responses and rounded to the nearest decimal point.

The results of the survey show that, while the NoE community is interested in sustaining all of the proposed activities, with all activities scoring above 3, AIDA, the Cross NoE Activities Coordination and Communications and the Joint SRA were considered most crucial ([Figure 2](#)).



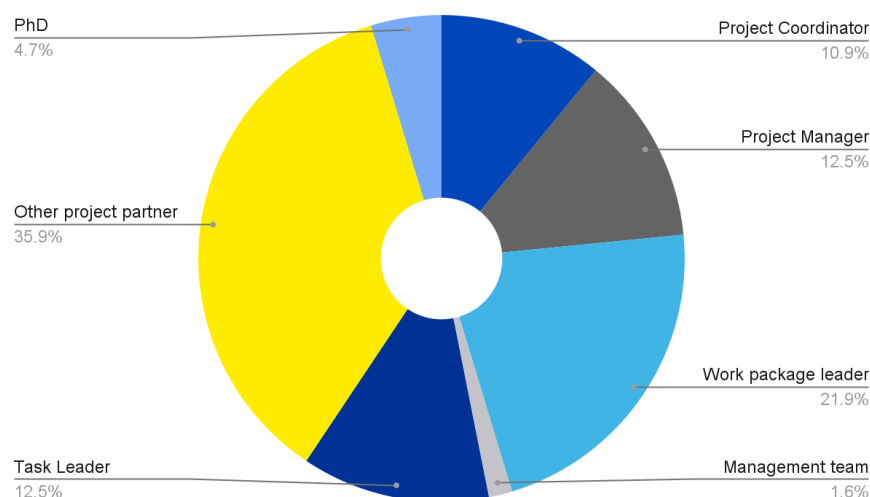
○ **Figure 2. Activity Prioritisation by Community**

Of the 71 submissions (as of 31 August 2024), a majority were affiliated with TAILOR and AI4Media, jointly representing 63.3% of respondents. The remaining respondents were distributed amongst HumanE-AI-Net with 15%, VISION at 11.9%, ELSA and dAIEDGE both with 3.4%, ELISE and ENFIELD both at 1.7%, with no respondents from euROBIN or ELIAS (Figure 3).



○ **Figure 3. ICT NoE affiliation of survey respondents**

Of the respondents, most were “other project partner member” at almost 36%, with “Work Package leader” at just under 22%, followed by “Project Manager” and “Task Leader”, both at 12.5%, and “Project Coordinator” at almost 11%, with “PhD student/candidate” and “Management team” representing the remaining respondents at 4.7% and 1.6%, respectively (Figure 4).



○ **Figure 4. NoE Function of survey respondents**

2.2.1. Survey Comments and Suggestions

The survey respondents were also encouraged to provide comments or recommendations and provided a wealth of thoughtful suggestions aimed at enhancing the impact, sustainability, and integration of AI research within the EU framework.

In summary, these reflections and suggestions from the survey respondents underscore the desire of the NoE community for a more coordinated, sustainable and impactful approach to AI research. By addressing these recommendations, the EU can build a robust framework that not only advances scientific excellence but also delivers meaningful economic and societal benefits.

2.2.1.1. Branding and Recognition

A recurring theme was the importance of developing a strong and recognisable brand for publicly and EU-funded AI research. Specifically, the idea of turning "NoE" (Network of Excellence) into a prestigious label for outstanding groups and consortia, extending beyond those directly funded by the European Commission, reflects a desire to elevate the visibility and credibility of such initiatives.

2.2.1.2. Sustainability and Funding

Sustainability and long-term funding emerged as critical priorities. Respondents emphasised the need to ensure that NoE activities are adequately supported, with minimal administrative overhead, and recommended leveraging new financial mechanisms such as the NoE Financial Sub-Granting Programme (FSGP). These funds could be used to transition valuable activities from previous NoEs into future initiatives, maintaining momentum and continuity.

2.2.1.3. Collaboration and Expansion

Collaboration across sectors and borders was another significant focus. Respondents highlighted the importance of identifying and supporting AI-related activities in application domains while

fostering partnerships with diverse stakeholders, including those outside the EU. Expanding collaboration globally would enrich EU research and strengthen its position in the international AI landscape.

2.2.1.4. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

Capacity building and knowledge sharing were also key concerns. Respondents proposed the creation of an e-learning platform for NoE coordinators and project managers, which could house resources such as templates, best practices and relevant policies. They also called for sustained support for community-driven events, such as NoE workshops, to facilitate collaboration and innovation. Maintaining initiatives such as PhD mobility grants and ensuring computational infrastructure for education and training were seen as essential for developing the next generation of AI researchers and practitioners.

2.2.1.5. Research Support and Valorisation

The importance of research support and the valorisation of findings was underscored. Investing in research support careers and promoting AI literacy was viewed as essential for managing research effectively and ensuring its benefits are widely understood and disseminated. Similarly, prioritising the transformation of research outcomes into economic impact, particularly through stronger industry-academia collaboration, was highlighted as a way to maximise the value of EU-funded AI research.

2.2.1.6. Strategic Consolidation

Strategic consolidation of efforts was recommended to avoid fragmentation and unnecessary duplication. Respondents suggested leveraging the expertise of the existing NoE community to identify new directions and participants, rather than initiating costly new calls for proposals. This approach would help optimise resources and focus on efficiently achieving tangible outcomes.

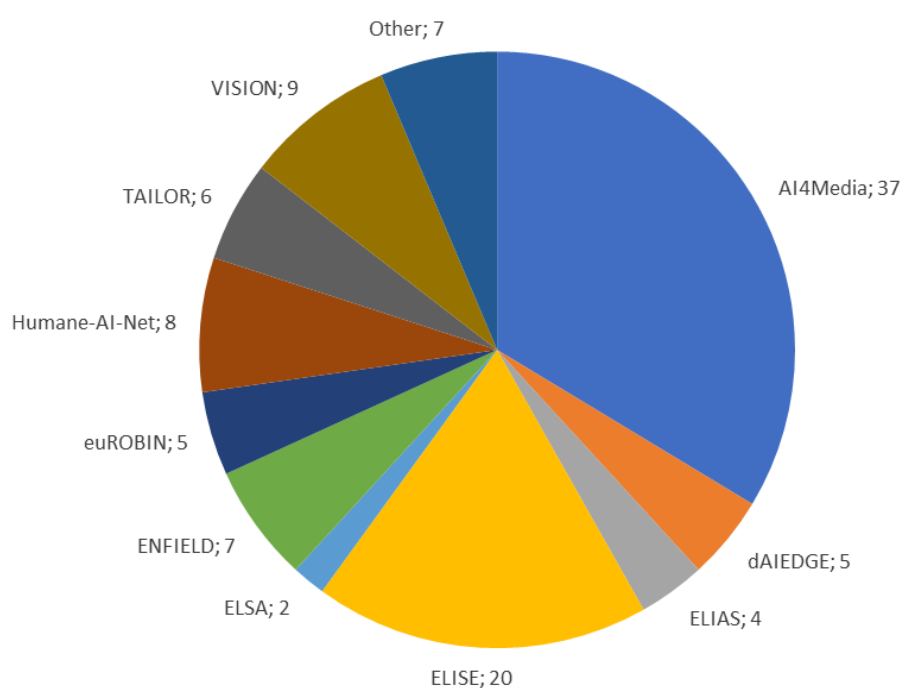
2.2.1.7. Networking and Ecosystem Building

Finally, there was strong support for networking activities to connect the AI community, emphasising the importance of knowledge sharing, talent circulation and stakeholder collaboration. These efforts were seen as vital for fostering a vibrant and well-integrated AI ecosystem within the EU.

3. Feedback from Sustainability Community Session

At the [4th NoE Community Workshop](#) in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 26 June 2024, the Sustainability Community Session “Worldcafé on Sustainability of the NoE Community” was held to facilitate collaborative dialogue and to develop actionable plans among NoEs and stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability and impact of the NoEs in AI. A full report on the structure and results of the workshop can be found in the VISION deliverable D3.3 “Observations from the interaction and mentoring activities and lessons learned”.

Whilst over 100 participants representing the NoEs were physically present at the workshop ([Figure 5](#)), 40 representatives from ELLIS participated remotely and, for technical limitations at the venue, could not be included in the on-site working groups; thus, while their feedback could not be discussed in the workshop, it was integrated after the event.



○ **Figure 5. Onsite participants of NoE Sustainability Community Session**

The workshop included focused discussions on coordination among the NoEs, particularly with the inclusion of newer NoEs such as dAIEDGE, ELIAS and ENFIELD. This topic was crucial for aligning activities, enhancing communication and exploring sustainable funding mechanisms across the broader NoE community.

One of the key takeaways was the need for a structured approach to coordinating activities among both established and newer NoEs. Participants noted that while the integration of new networks (not part of the original mandate and funding of VISION) brought fresh perspectives and thematic diversity, it also posed challenges in aligning priorities and operational frameworks. To address this, there was a consensus on developing shared roadmaps and action plans that clearly outline collaborative goals, ensuring all NoEs are working toward complementary objectives rather than duplicating efforts.

Communication emerged as another vital area for improvement. Newer NoEs highlighted the challenges of navigating existing communication channels and networks, which are often fragmented or inconsistent across the community. To foster better connectivity, participants proposed the establishment of centralised communication hubs or platforms that could serve as repositories for shared resources, updates, and best practices. These hubs would also help newer NoEs more effectively integrate into the existing community by providing clearer access to ongoing discussions, decision-making processes, and collaborative opportunities.

Regarding funding mechanisms, participants emphasised the importance of creating sustainable models that allow for joint initiatives while accommodating the unique needs of individual NoEs. There was significant discussion around pooling resources for cross-network projects, such as collaborative research or shared infrastructure, which could be supported by joint applications for EU funding. It was also suggested that a portion of the funding allocated to NoEs be specifically reserved for collaborative activities, ensuring these efforts are consistently prioritised. The group highlighted the potential role of the European Commission in facilitating these efforts, both by providing guidance on resource allocation and by incentivising collaboration through targeted funding.

Overall, the discussions underscored the importance of creating more formalised frameworks for coordination and communication, with mechanisms for resource sharing and joint planning. By addressing these challenges, the NoEs—new and established—can work more cohesively and effectively toward their shared mission of advancing AI excellence in Europe. The feedback from this session is expected to inform future strategies for improving integration and operational efficiency across the NoE community.

4. Potential Funding Mechanisms

While some activities naturally align with the priorities of other organisations, ensuring their continuation without significant new funding, such as Adra integrating the Ecosystem Mapping tool into existing Adra topic groups, the need for alternative sustainable funding mechanisms for other activities, such as the AI4Media Observatory, AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA) and cross-NoE activities, is critical to ensure these continue to contribute meaningfully to Europe's AI ecosystem.

Relying on existing mechanisms, such as AI4Europe and Adra-e, poses challenges, as their budgets are already allocated. Preliminary discussions reveal that reallocation of existing funding is impractical. To mitigate this, the European Commission could mandate that future NoE calls include specific budgets for shared activities. However, while this approach distributes costs among various actors, it risks diluting cohesion and efficiency. Future EU funding mechanisms must address these challenges to ensure both cohesion and efficiency.

In her [address upon reconfirmation](#), European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasised the importance of European leadership in emerging technologies and the need for strong, independent governance structures to support sustainable and impactful innovation. Reflecting this vision, the concept of a CERN-like organisation for AI (as advocated since 2018 by large parts of the European AI community) has been suggested—a dedicated European AI agency that could serve as a central entity for the governance, research and strategic development of AI. This aligns with broader goals for creating effective and robust mechanisms for funding and sustaining activities initiated under the ICT-48 NoEs.

The establishment of a CERN-like organisation for AI could act as a cornerstone for sustained funding and effective governance. This agency would provide independent oversight, manage AI research priorities, oversee funding distribution and establish ethical guidelines. It would also foster synergistic collaboration, bridging academia, industry and policymakers across Europe. Additionally, it would streamline resources, ensuring that projects such as the AI Media Observatory and AIDA receive the necessary funding. Such an approach resonates with von der Leyen's call for visionary governance structures, safeguarding European leadership in AI innovation.

Another potential option on a smaller scale is a follow-up CSA akin to the VISION CSA that could offer targeted support for activities aligning with the strategic goals of the NoEs. This CSA would ensure dedicated budget allocation, support policy alignment by engaging with the European Commission to embed priority activities into Horizon Europe calls, and centralise coordination to facilitate collaboration between new and existing NoEs. Incorporating sustainability activities into CSAs as explicit priorities would significantly enhance their long-term viability.

Less overarching targeted funding mechanisms can be employed, depending on the specific needs and activities, on a case-by-case basis:

- *Private sector investments* can play a significant role through partnerships with industries that benefit directly from advancements in AI. These partnerships may include sponsorship opportunities for prominent events such as the European Summer School on AI (ESSAI), which would not only provide financial support but also foster closer collaboration with industry stakeholders.
- *Philanthropic contributions* are another avenue, as foundations dedicated to promoting technology and societal progress often seek to support initiatives that align with their

missions. Positioning projects as ethically grounded and impactful could help attract funding from these sources.

- *Revenue-generating business models* offer a self-sustaining approach by monetising educational programs, as offered in the form of AIDA and ESSAI courses as well as Theme Development Workshops. Additionally, licensing tools and technologies developed by the NoEs could possibly create a consistent revenue stream. If successful, these strategies could ensure that initiatives remain financially viable while providing value to participants and users.
- *Licensing and access fees* for mature tools, such as the AI Media Observatory, can establish a long-term financial framework by creating agreements that balance accessibility with sustainability.
- *EU funding* remains a cornerstone of support for many initiatives, particularly through grants under Horizon Europe and the next framework programme. Proposals can be tailored to align with funding calls that emphasise projects such as the AI Media Observatory 2.0. Engaging with the European Commission to guide the structure and content of future calls can further ensure that these align with strategic priorities.

A combination of these mechanisms, applied thoughtfully on a case-by-case basis, can provide a diversified and robust financial foundation for advancing AI initiatives, reducing dependence on any single source of funding while fostering long-term growth and impact.

The sustainability of NoE activities depends on a multifaceted funding strategy that blends public and private investments, revenue generation and dedicated EU mechanisms. By fostering independent entities such as a CERN for AI and aligning strategic priorities with the European Commission, Europe can ensure the continued success of its AI ecosystem. Future CSAs and Horizon Europe calls must prioritise coordination activities, ensuring that collaborative efforts are adequately resourced and aligned with overarching goals.

5. Conclusion

The activities identified as having the greatest potential for sustainability and impact include, in alphabetical order, the following:

- The AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA), which provides standardised AI education across European universities and aims for global expansion to sustain its offerings.
- The AI Media Observatory is another key initiative, functioning as a multidisciplinary platform addressing AI's impact on the media sector, with sustainability plans linked to sponsorship and integration into the AI4Media consortium.
- Cross-NoE Activities Coordination and Communications play a crucial role in maintaining cohesive branding, communication, and event coordination, ensuring ongoing European AI community engagement.
- Ecosystem Mapping offers a comprehensive view of AI research and innovation across Europe, with Adra's involvement deemed vital for its continuation.
- The European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence (ESSAI) fosters interdisciplinary AI study and relies on partnerships with EurAI for its long-term sustainability.
- Academic-Industry Collaboration and Theme Development Workshops (TDWs) enhance innovation and technology transfer, with potential continuity through the CERTAIN consortium.
- The Joint Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) aligns the EU's AI aspirations and requires integration with Adra SRIDA for enduring impact.

The critical assessment of these activities by the community reveals broad support for their continuation. While the NoE community is interested in sustaining all of the proposed activities, AIDA, the Cross-NoE Activities Coordination and Communications as well as the Joint SRA were considered most crucial. Relevance to AI education, innovation, and competitiveness was a key driver, alongside feasibility, as initiatives with existing momentum and governance structures received strong backing. The potential for broad European reach and alignment with strategic goals also influenced prioritisation, reflecting the community's shared commitment to impactful and sustainable outcomes.

Key recommendations for maximising the impact of sustained NoE activities include formalising governance structures to establish clear leadership and accountability. Strengthening educational integration is critical, with AI proposed as a core competency at all education levels to enhance AI literacy across Europe. Investment in technical infrastructure—including standardised datasets, HPC resources, and accessible tools—is essential for fostering innovation. Fostering public and private collaboration will drive technology transfer and address societal needs, while promoting cross-NoE collaboration through cohesive communication and branding will unify efforts. To ensure alignment with European competitiveness goals, suitable metrics should be developed to monitor and evaluate the long-term outcomes of sustained activities.

Ensuring financial sustainability is paramount for the success of these activities. European Commission funding remains a cornerstone, with programs such as Horizon Europe and Digital Europe providing essential support. National and regional funding, leveraging local governments and initiatives, is also important. Private sector sponsorships offer opportunities for direct financial support or in-kind contributions, while revenue generation models, such as monetising educational content and consulting services, add another dimension of sustainability. Integrating

activities into existing platforms like AI4EU and Adra further ensures continuity and alignment with European goals.

Particularly significant are the CERN for AI initiative and the proposal for a new CSA as central funding mechanisms. The CERN for AI would act as a dedicated European agency for the governance, research and strategic development of AI, very much like the European Space Agency (ESA) does for the space sector, providing independent oversight and ensuring resources for impactful projects, such as the AI Media Observatory and AIDA. The proposed CSA, on the other hand, could offer targeted support for strategic NoE activities, embedding them within the broader Horizon Europe framework and ensuring a cohesive approach to sustainability.

In conclusion, the sustainability of the activities carried out by the NoE community and described earlier in this report is key to establishing and maintaining European leadership in AI research and innovation. A unified approach, supported by robust funding and strategic planning, will enhance the global competitiveness of EU in the field of AI, help build a cohesive AI community capable of addressing critical challenges, and drive societal and economic benefits across diverse sectors. The NoE activities outlined in this document represent a significant opportunity for Europe to consolidate its strengths in AI and ensure sustained impact. With continued support from the European Union in combination with community collaboration, these initiatives can make important contributions to the future of Europe in AI and AI-related activities, and thus to the long-term success of all sectors of European industry and society.

Annexes

Annexe 1 - Survey for Activity Information Collection

VISION Community Sustainability Survey - Activity Information Collection by Leads

The following survey will feed into the VISION Deliverable D2.5 **Community Sustainability Plan**, to be delivered by the **end of August 2024** and which CLAIRE is partially responsible for creating.

This survey serves to **collect information on the various ICT NoE activities**, such as the current and projected costs, personnel involvement and reach of these activities **that are in consideration to be sustained beyond ICT-48**.

The results of this survey will inform an **ICT Community survey**, to be shared **by the end of May**, to generate a **prioritised list of ICT activities** that the community wants to sustain beyond ICT-48.

The data collected in this survey will also be used for Ecosystem mapping activities. Sensitive data, such as names and email addresses, are voluntarily given and may be used to get in contact with you for further clarification or discussion.

Current activity information

Name:

Email:

ICT NoE affiliation(s):

Function in your network (coordinator, WP lead, etc.):

Activity Name:

Name and NoE affiliation of activity lead/coordinators(s):

Short description of the activity, objectives and relevance / importance to the community (including links, if applicable):

Target audience:

- General public
- Academics
- Industry
- Policy makers
- Students / Early career researchers
- Other:

Reach / number of participants per year:

Number of PMs required per year (paid or voluntary):

Current budget per year (in euros):

EU platforms and tools that the activity has been submitted to:

- Horizon Results Platform

- Research and Innovation success stories
- AI-on-Demand Platform
- Horizon Results Booster
- CORDIS
- Horizon Dashboard
- Innovations Radar
- Other: *Relevant info has also been published in the European AI Alliance blog*

Projected activity information

Potential new activity lead(s):

Potential development of the activity, its objectives and relevance / importance to the community, over the next 5 years:

Projected target audience:

- Students / Early career researchers
- Industry
- Policy makers
- Academics
- General public
- Other:

Projected reach / number of participants per year, over the next 5 years: xx

Projected number of PMs required per year, over the next 5 years (paid or voluntary):

Projected budget per year, over the next 5 years:

Please provide any other relevant details or comments:

Annexe 2 - Survey for NoE Activity Prioritisation by Community

VISION Community Sustainability Survey - NoE Activity Prioritisation by Community

The following survey will feed into the VISION Deliverable D2.5 **Community Sustainability Plan**, to be delivered by the **end of August** 2024 and which CLAIRE is partially responsible for creating.

This survey serves to **generate a prioritised list of** European projects of the **Networks of Excellence Centres (NoEs) activities that the community wants to sustain beyond ICT-48**. The deadline for submission is **31st of August** 2024.

The data collected in this survey will also be used for Ecosystem mapping activities. Sensitive data, such as names and email addresses, are voluntarily given and may be used to get in contact with you for further clarification or discussion.

Your information

Name: xx

Email: xx

ICT NoE affiliation(s):

- VISION
- AI4Media
- ELISE
- HumanE-AI-Net
- TAILOR
- ELSA
- euROBIN
- ELIAS
- dAIEDGE
- ENFIELD
- Other:

Function in your network (coordinator, WP lead, etc.):

- Project Coordinator
- Project Manager
- Management team member
- Work package leader
- Task Leader
- Other project partner member
- PhD student/candidate
- Other:

ICT Activities to be Sustained and Prioritisation

The activities that ICT intend to sustain beyond ICT-48 are, in alphabetical order:

AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA)

The International AI Doctoral Academy – AIDA enhances AI education across Europe, attracting PhD students and postdocs, as well as other external students/scientists, and promoting excellence. It provides a variety of educational programs and resources, standardizing AI education across European universities.

Specifically, AIDA offers a range of courses (short, semester, seasonal schools), AI excellence lectures and educational resources. This initiative supports universities, lecturers, students, and researchers by enhancing their visibility, educational offerings, collaborative opportunities, and access to AI resources.

AI Media Observatory

The AI Media Observatory is a knowledge platform that monitors and curates relevant research on AI in media, provides expert perspectives on the potentials and challenges that AI poses for the media sector and allows stakeholders to easily get in touch with relevant experts in the field via our directory.

The Observatory features three distinct sections, Your AI Media Feed; Let's Talk AI and Media; and Find an AI Media Expert, which, together, create a rich ecosystem of knowledge and expertise, enabling stakeholders to navigate the complexities of AI in media with confidence. The European AI Media Observatory not only supports the responsible advancement of AI in the sector but also contributes significantly to the wider understanding of AI's role and its effects on our world.

The AI Media Observatory serves as a crucial resource for navigating the complexities of AI in the media landscape. It is useful for a wide range of stakeholders including media professionals, AI researchers, policymakers, educators, and anyone interested in AI's impact on media. In a complex information ecosystem, the Observatory is a critical place to offer curated information on AI and Generative AI when it comes to the media sector. It is also a visible place for researchers to share their work, their project events or scientific conferences and extend their network for potential future collaborations.

Cross NoE Activities Coordination and Communications

Coordination and Communications are crucial in a successful project, and even more so when bringing together the wider scientific community. Such activities include integrating activities such as:

- the Highlights slide deck, featuring the success stories from across the NoEs;
- the Common Visual Identity for European Networks of AI Excellence Centres, developing an easy to recognise and use AI NoE Brand Book that can act as the unifying modifier of excellent EU AI research and innovation and the joint commitment to “European excellence in trustworthy AI”;
- Communication channels management, such as the Cross-network
- Communication platform open to wider European AI community at Mattermost, the Newsletters, etc;
- Joint events planning, such as Community Workshops and meetings for the wider European AI community, High-level thematic panels and AI Open Days for well-balanced discussion, as well as regular strategic and coordination meetings of cross-NoE groups.

Ecosystem mapping

Research, development and innovation in the field of AI takes place all across the European continent and beyond. However, an integrated overview of these activities – and especially the expertise – is lacking.

This ecosystem mapping is a first prototype of a mapping of the AI R&I ecosystem in the form of an interactive website, based on the NoEs. It is intended as a tool that gives an overview of the research, development and innovation (R&D&I) activities on AI-related themes across Europe and associated countries (e.g. Israel, Türkiye), and as a tool for finding organisations across Europe and beyond that work on specific AI themes, on the intersection with specific application domains.

European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence (ESSAI)

The European Summer School on Artificial Intelligence (ESSAI) is a direct product of European AI research being increasingly coordinated and scaled up across projects, research organisations and countries. ESSAI's immediate predecessors are the Advanced Course on AI (ACAI), organised by the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI), and the TAILOR Summer School on Trustworthy AI organised since 2021 by the ICT-48 NoE TAILOR. In 2022, these two schools were for the first time co-located in Barcelona with two parallel tracks as well as joint events. In 2023, EurAI and TAILOR continued their collaboration to deliver a significantly larger one-week event in Ljubljana with over 30 courses and tutorials presented in seven parallel tracks.

This year, ESSAI & ACAI-2024 is again expanded into a two-week event taking place in the premises of the National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos". ACAI-2024 will offer 13 invited tutorials (90min each) delivered by international experts, while ESSAI-2024, together with the fourth TAILOR Summer School, will offer 30 courses (5x90min each) on a range of current topics of AI, solicited through an open call for course proposals and selected by an international program committee.

Academic-Industry Collaboration and Theme Development Workshops

Academic and Industry collaboration during the lifetime of the NoE R&I projects has facilitated discussions, developed results and technological advances on specific use cases over short periods, and contributed to the strengthening of existing and new relationships between academic and industrial partners.

One of the most visible activities was the Theme Development Workshops that cut across multiple ICT-48 Networks of AI Excellence Centres while bringing together researchers, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to identify industrial trends and needs and match these to AI capabilities in Europe. These are one-day workshops with a limited number of pre-selected participants and a programme consisting of plenary presentations and focused discussions in smaller groups and breakout sessions.

The objectives are to jointly identify the strategic AI research areas and challenges in the scope of the workshop and to set up collaborative structures for further addressing them beyond the event. The main results will be summarised and complemented by a market analysis and trend foresights to provide a comprehensive overview of AI capabilities and challenges in Europe. Already the "Industry Collaboration Best Practices" have been Launched.

Strategic research planning - Joint SRA

The NoEs Joint Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) complements the different Strategic Research Agendas (SRAs) that have already been published by AI4Media, ELISE, HUMANE-AI and TAILOR.

The European Union's aspirations for AI, Data and Robotics (ADR) that are "made in Europe" demand an ambitious approach to advancing European AI research and development. The EU's six AI Networks of Excellence Centres in AI and Robotics (NoEs) – AI4Media, ELISE, ELSA, euROBIN, HUMANE-AI-Net, and TAILOR – are providing a framework for delivering these ambitions, by advancing the frontiers of AI, data and robotics research and its translation to real-world impact in different domains.

Activity Prioritisation by Community

Please indicate how important it is to you to continue/sustain each activity.

1 (not important) - 5 (very important); Do not know / can not assess

- Cross NoE Activities Coordination
- AIDA
- Ecosystem mapping
- Strategic research planning - Joint SRA
- ESSAI
- Industry collaboration and Theme Development Workshops
- AI Media Observatory

To what extent do you find the AI on the Demand Platform useful?

1 (Not useful at all) - 5 (Extremely useful)

Please name any additional NoE activity that you would like to see implemented.

Further comments