



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

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 952070

Deliverable D6.3

Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI  
Dialogue Report

## Deliverable 6.3 - Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report

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## Executive summary

This document is a deliverable of Work Package 6 “Communication and Dissemination Support” within the EU ICT-48 Coordination and Support Action “VISION”. It concerns task 6.4 “Enhancing European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue”.

It provides an overview and impact assessment of the events and cross-domain actions undertaken to contribute to the larger AI dialogue. The objective of such dissemination actions is to complement the efforts of the NoEs and raise awareness on important topics of European AI and the NoEs, in both the general public and the AI community. The aim of this deliverable is thus to present the events organised and an assessment of their impact. Within the task’s activities, four main events took place including two AI Open Days and two high-level events.

Concerning the AI Open Days, the first took place on 24 June 2022 in Brussels and the second on 01 June 2023 in Prague. The programme followed a similar structure for the two events, beginning with an introduction of the European AI Community with a focus on NoEs, moving to interactive demonstrations in a dedicated room, and finishing with a roundtable discussion and social networking. The event was targeted to the following stakeholders of the AI community: students, the general public and local communities, and researchers and industrial partners. On-site participation was approximately 40 participants for each event, and the roundtables were livestreamed and their recordings made available on the CLAIRE YouTube Channel.

Concerning the high-level events, the two events took place in the summer of 2023. The first event was held in June 2023 at the 3rd Community Workshop held in Siena, Italy. Jozef Geurts (Inria) moderated *Session 2: Sustainability of NoEs and their activities within the AI, Data and Robotics ecosystem*. The discussions highlighted that more clear and ambitious goals connected to needs are crucial for success and should be underpinned with higher investments (following the example of the Chips Act), instruments (like joined undertakings), and longer-term ambition to connect the different initiatives together.

The second high-level event followed one month later, on 4 July 2023 in Brussels, the *Open Dialogue between the European Commission and the European AI, Data and Robotics Community on Future Research Trends in AI and Large AI Models*. The topics covered during the discussions included data quality and availability, societal aspects and social impact of AI, including democratic values, new interactive robotics applications, comparing Europe's global positioning and young talents. Particular focus was given to Large Language models (LLMs) and Access to High-performance computing (HPC).

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Objectives of the VISION CSA and the WP6 activities

VISION – Value and Impact through Synergy, Interaction and coOperation of Networks of AI Excellence Centres – is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) financed by the European

Deliverable 6.3 - Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report Commission through the Horizon 2020 programme under the call for proposal H2020-ICT-48-2020. It is coordinated by the University of Leiden (ULEI), consists of a consortium of nine organisations, and runs from 01 September 2020 to 31 August 2024.

The aim of the VISION project is to reinforce, interconnect and mobilise Europe’s AI community and to orchestrate and accelerate Europe’s transition to a world-leading position in the research, development, and deployment of AI technologies.

Via Work Package (WP) 6, VISION provided continuous communication and dissemination support not only to promote activities and outcomes of the VISION project, but also to multiply synergies in communicating the activities and results of other selected NoEs and to be instrumental for their visibility towards different audiences. This contributes to building a strong communication platform across the European AI community and towards the public to strengthen the European AI brand.

Reaching the ambitious objectives set out by the EU strategy on AI while ensuring trust based on European values requires a well-balanced discussion including all relevant stakeholders. While each of the four original NoEs developed their roadmap and research agenda, T6.4 mobilised and coordinated the networks to contribute to the larger AI dialogue (at national, European and international levels). To this end, two events with high-level thematic panels / roundtables with researchers, industry representatives, and policy makers took place, with the objective to anchor the excellence networks to the larger EC strategy on AI as set out in “The Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence” (2018). To reach society at large, two AI Open Days, one in Brussels in 2022 and one in Prague in 2023, took place focusing on research and technology in the context of trustworthy AI. The aim of these events was to introduce topics and outcomes raising from other NoEs towards the society in a two-way exchange, reflecting the complex societal context in which AI finds itself. Synergies (co-organisation of events, active participation to each other’s activities, and common documentation such as the Joint Adra SRIDA) between NoEs were sought out to enlarge the outreach and impact of the R&I actions.

## 1.2 Purpose and structure of the document

This document, “Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report (D6.3)”, is a deliverable of Work Package 6 “Communication and Dissemination Support”, Task 6.4 “Enhancing European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue”.

It provides an overview and impact assessment of the events undertaken to contribute to the larger AI dialogue. The objective of such dissemination actions is to complement the efforts of the NoEs and raise awareness on important topics of European AI and the NoEs, in both the general public and the AI community. The aim of this deliverable is thus to present the events organised and an assessment of their impact. The document is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 presents an overview of the two AI Open Days including the programme, overview of interactive demonstrations, summary of the panels and roundtables and their participants, description of communication leading up and following the event, and finally the main results and outcomes
- Chapter 3 presents an overview of the two high-level events including the context of the event, its objectives, main topics of discussion, and main outcomes.

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- Chapter 4 concludes this deliverable with an impact assessment and recommendations for future activities.

## 2 Organisation of the in-person AI Open Days

As first reported in D6.4 “Updated Dissemination and Communication Plan”, the main objective of the AI Open Days was to showcase the activities, achievements or goals of the NoEs to broader audiences in an attractive and understandable way. It also served to bring together the European AI community with local communities, manufacturing companies and the general public. There were four main categories of stakeholders included in the target audiences for the AI Open Days: students, the general public and local communities, researchers, and industrial partners.

The AI Open Days followed similar structures, and the programme was divided into three sessions:

1. Introduction of the European AI Community with the focus on NoEs, their goals, activities, and achievements
2. Interactive AI-powered demonstrations in a dedicated exposition space and presentations of NoEs:
  - VISION encouraged participation of young researchers from the NoE partner institutions on-site to demonstrate their interesting AI-driven solution. By participating on site, this also supported personal networking of the young researchers within the AI Community.
  - To this aim, VISION provided technical support on-site as well as with travel and transport arrangements if necessary (although it is foreseen that NoEs would have funds for this kind of mobility in their budgets).
  - It was also offered to NoEs to make a hybrid demonstrator – with a NoEs’ representative in person at the event that can jointly present some demonstrator with a colleague that will be located in a lab abroad. In this case, such a colleague can be connected remotely to the venue of the event and put him/her on a large screen to show the remote demonstration.
3. Roundtable discussion:
  - The main table of the roundtable was co-created and chosen in close cooperation with all existing NoEs (TAILOR, ELSA, Humane-AI-Net, AI4Media, ELSA, euRobin). On-site participation for the roundtable was encouraged with 4-5 expert panellists and one moderator familiar with the chosen topic. The discussions were live streamed on the YouTube channel of CLAIRE to maximise the impact.
  - The main topic of this roundtable discussion will also determine the main theme of the event and, of course, will influence the selection of both demonstrators and speakers.

### 2.1 First AI Open Day – Brussels June 2022

On 24 June 2022, from 3:00 to 7:00 pm, the first VISION AI Open Day was organised in the VUB AI Experience Centre in Brussels, Belgium in conjunction with the European Year of Youth. The main organisers and partners were VISION, the ICT-48 NoE projects, CLAIRE, FARI, and Jeunes européens Brussels. This event was conceptualised as an opportunity to contribute to the larger AI dialogue and to build a bridge between the AI research community and the general public. In addition, it raised

Deliverable 6.3 - Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report awareness on important topics of European AI and the NoEs. It was geared towards students and the general public on their way home from either school or work.



Figure 1: AI Open Day social media announcement card

## Programme

The programme was set as follows:

- 14:50-15:05 | Registration and arrival of the participants
- 15:05-15:20 | Presentation of VISION & the European AI ecosystem
- 15:20-16:50 | Interactive Demonstrators and Open Discussions
- 17:00-18:00 | Roundtable Discussion
- 18:00-19:00 | Networking & Cocktail

## AI demonstrations

There were 7 AI demonstrations at the event; further information about each can be found in the relevant links below.

- Eduteams by Athina Georgana, [TAILOR](#) Network
- [NRGcoin Smart Grid Demo](#)
- [Maze](#)
- [BruBotics](#)
- [ETRO](#)
- [AI Lab](#)
- [DEFROST](#)



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Figure 2: Demonstrations at the AI Open Day in Brussels

Panel

The panel started with an opening by Holger H. Hoos, VISION Project Coordinator, to introduce the project and the ICT48 networks. Four videos presenting the NoEs were then shown to the public.

The roundtable was conceived in such a way to have panellists from different European countries as well as representation of civil society, with a person from a European institution, an expert researcher, a student, and an artist. As such, it was composed as follows:



**Carl-Maria Mörch**, FARI



**Evangelia Markidou**  
| Head of Sector in Artificial Intelligence Technology, Deployment and impact  
DG CONNECT at the European Commission, Luxembourg



**Marc Schoenauer**  
| Senior Researcher of LRI with INRIA, France



**Athina Georgara**  
| PhD Candidate, Artificial Intelligence Research Institute IIIA CSIC | Enzyme Advisory Group, Spain



**Dewi Brunet**  
| Art Director at Diatom Studio and Folding Artist at DewiOrigami, Belgium

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**Figure 3: Moderator and Panellists of AI Open Day in Brussels**

A summary of the event as well as the recordings can be found on the VISION website<sup>1</sup>.



**Figure 3: Roundtable discussion at the AI Open Day in Brussels**

### Communication

During the preparation phase of the event, multiple stakeholders were contacted to ensure the AI community was broadly involved in setting priorities for the event.

The Networks of Excellence were also invited to participate actively by presenting their work through the demonstrations and by broadcasting their presentation video. Finally, CLAIRE was contacted directly for their support, as well as the broader AI community via the Mattermost installation that was set up as part of VISION's WP2.

In the dissemination phase, project partners as well as institutions that are part of VISION were contacted and encouraged to provide additional visibility to the event. In addition, physical and virtual flyers were disseminated on the university grounds of both the VUB and the ULB.

Due to the limitations imposed by the AI experience Centre in respect to the number of people who could safely attend the event, the registration form on Eventbrite was limited to 65 people. The event was fully booked.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vision4ai.eu/ai-open-day2022>

## Deliverable 6.3 - Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report Results

Though 65 people registered, around 40 people came to the event. This percentage of on-site attendance is in line with current participation rates to workshops and events, especially when there is no attendance fee. The relatively low participation rate could also have been due to a poor weather forecast, airline strikes, and the fact that the event had to be moved on a Friday afternoon during the exam period, which was not an ideal time for our target audience. However, all participants stayed for the whole time, which is a positive sign as it means they were interested in the programme and enjoyed it. Even more notably, the video recording of the panel discussion available on YouTube had huge success — resulting in over 52 600 views since it has been published. This is the second most viewed video on the CLAIRE channel which hosts the recordings.

### 2.2 Second AI Open Day - Prague June 2023

The second AI Open Day took place on 1 June 2023 in Prague, Czechia at the RICAIP Testbed for Industry 4.0 at the Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics (CIIRC CTU) from 2:00 to 6:20 pm. The focus of the event was on Trustworthy AI and it was organised in conjunction with a three day event “Industry AI Days” at the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the hosting CIIRC CTU institute. While participants were encouraged to attend on-site in order to visit the testbed and take part in the interactive demonstrations, the panel discussion was also live-streamed with the option to ask questions via sli.do. The event was designed for the **general public**, especially university and high-school students, for **industrial companies, innovators and start-up community, for researchers** – even at the early stage of their carrier, and for **policymakers**, with the following objectives:

- Learn something new in a dynamic and entertaining way;
- Join the insightful discussions with main personalities on AI;
- Get to know what’s behind “AI made in Europe: Trustworthy, Human-centred & Ethical AI”.



Figure 4: Social media announcement of the 2nd AI Open Day

#### Programme

The programme was set as follows:



Deliverable 6.3 - Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report  
14:00-14:30 | Registration and arrival of the participants

14:30-15:00 | Presentation of VISION & the European AI ecosystem

15:00-16:00 | Interactive Demonstrators and Open Discussions

16:00-17:00 | Roundtable Discussion – Live-streamed!

17:00-18:20 | Networking & Cocktail

### Presentation of VISION & the European AI ecosystem

The day began with an opening presentation by Holger H. Hoos, VISION Project Coordinator, to introduce the VISION project. He then welcomed the NoEs (ELISE, AI4Media, HumanE-AI-Net, TAILOR) who were present at the event and who equally participated to the round table to give a short presentation of their projects. This was a real success for the VISION project as it succeeded in having all NoEs represented, on-site, at the coordinator or leading researcher level. This engagement was a clear sign of the shift in cooperation that had developed over the course of project implementation and dedicated VISION efforts to bring them together. This opening session was followed by the interactive demonstrations.

### AI Demonstrators

9 interactive demonstrators from a number of NoEs (ELISE, AI4Media, HumanE-AI-Net, TAILOR), and by CIIRC CTU on behalf of VISION), were available in the RICAIP testbed, including:

- ELISE : Computer vision and Machine perception
- RICAIP & CIIRC CTU for VISION: Robot playing Checkers
- AI4Media: AI for Social Media and Against Disinformation
- CIIRC CTU for VISION: Collaborative workplace of the future – Human-robot Collaboration in Assembly
- HumanE-AI-Net: Storyboarder
- TAILOR: Robots you can trust
- CIIRC CTU for VISION: Pick-and-Place enriched with 3D reconstruction of objects
- TAILOR: Sudoku Assistant – An AI-powered app to help solve pen-and-paper Sudokus
- RICAIP & CIIRC CTU for VISION: Delta robot in 5G environment



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Figure 5: Presentations and Interactive Demonstrations at the 2nd AI Open Day

Panel

The participants to the panel discussion as well as their affiliation can be found in the promotional shot below.

Figure 6: Participants to the 2nd AI Open Day Roundtable

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Figure 7: Screenshot of the panel discussion featuring all panellists and the moderator

A summary of the event as well as the recordings can be found on the VISION website<sup>2</sup>.

### Communication

Similarly to the first AI Open Day, the event was widely promoted online by NoEs, by the CLAIRE network, and within the 10th Anniversary of CIIRC CTU promotion. It was intensively promoted to attract the local audience via CIIRC CTU channels, as well as the National Centre for Industry 4.0 and Czech AI stakeholders such as prg.ai. Printed fliers were distributed at the university campus of CTU and at the public event “Open House” that was held before AI Open Day.

### Results

Portions of the event, notably the Introduction and presentations of the NoEs as well as the panel discussion, were live-streamed and the recordings made available on the CLAIRE YouTube Channel. To date, there have been 284 views of the recordings. Nearly 125 people registered to attend the event, and on the day of the event there were 40 attendees (similar to the 1st AI Open Day). While this participation rate was disappointing in terms of no-shows, the event and demonstrations were very appreciated by those in attendance. The active efforts for dissemination and involvement to the event by all of the ICT-48 NoEs existing at the time is considered a success, as it brought the NoEs together for a cross-network and cross-project event with equal representation for all.

## 3 Organisation of the high-level events

The objective of the high-level events organised within T6.4 as outlined in the DoA is for VISION to facilitate “two high-level thematic panels / roundtables with researchers, industry representatives, and policy makers will be organised to anchor the excellence networks to the larger EC strategy on AI as set out in “The Coordinated Plan on Artificial Intelligence” (2018)”. It is important to note that much has happened both in terms of advancement of AI policy within Europe as well as technological advancement worldwide, notably related to Generative AI and Large Language Models since the VISION proposal was first written, launched, and then carried out. As such, and thanks to the inherent need and agile ability for CSA projects to adapt to the ecosystem in which they find themselves, and the fact that the two high-level events took place during the summer of 2023, the

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.vision4ai.eu/ai-open-day-2023/>

Deliverable 6.3 - Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report focus of the roundtable discussions and high-level events shifted from generic discussions related to the Coordinated Plan to more specific objectives to ensure European leadership in AI research and key strategic research topics, notably Large Generative AI Models.

### 3.1 Third Community Workshop – High-level session - 07 June 2023

#### Context

At the 3rd Community Workshop held in Siena, Italy, Jozef Geurts (Inria) and Géraud Guilloud (TNO) moderated Session 2: *Sustainability of NoEs and their activities within the AI, Data and Robotics ecosystem*. The session was attended by 40 representatives of NoEs existing at the time (TAILOR, ELISE, Humane-AI-Net, AI4Media, ELSA, and euRobin) representing both research and industry partners. Policy makers, while not physically present at the event, have been invited to review the full report from the Community Workshop which has been published and disseminated on the VISION website.<sup>3</sup>

#### Objectives

The Networks of Excellence (NoEs) play an important role to support the development and uptake of AI across the EU economy. In this session, the objectives were to firstly present and discuss the initiatives launched by the EC that contribute to the European AI ecosystem of excellence, complementing and leveraging upon the activity of the NoEs and their results, secondly to discuss mechanisms to maximise and sustain the impact of the NoEs, and finally to look forward towards the future innovation landscape on AI.

#### Main topics of discussion

The first part of the discussion was based on the *White Paper on Artificial Intelligence: a European approach to excellence and trust* and explored to what extent the paper can still be considered a blue-print, and whether there are missing elements. The discussion pointed out that the white paper highlights the following areas where the efforts can be focused:

- **Coordination with member states:** more efficient cooperation in key areas, such as research, investment, market uptake, skills and talent, data and international cooperation
- **Focus efforts R&I communities:** create more synergies and networks between the multiple European research centres and to align their efforts to improve excellence, retain and attract the best researchers and develop the best technology.
- **Skills:** upskilling the workforce to become fit for the AI led transformation, develop and spread excellence in skills that take root and grow across Europe
- **SMEs:** SMEs and start-ups will need access to finance in order to adapt their processes or to innovate using AI.
- **Partnership with private sector:** involve the private in setting the research and innovation to ensure the necessary level of co-investment.
- **Public sector:** Rapid deployment of products and services that rely on AI in their activities.
- **Access to data:** Improving access to and the management of data is fundamental.
- **International:** Europe is well positioned to exercise global leadership in building alliances around shared values and promoting the ethical use of AI.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.vision4ai.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/3rd-ICT-48-Community-Workshop-summary.pdf>.



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Figure 8: Community workshop session in Siena, Italy - 07 June 2023

### Outcomes

The representatives from the NoEs taking part to this discussion were aligned that the initiatives where they have seen the most promising results are related to synergies (be it with member states, the R&I community, or the private sector), to retaining talent and keeping promising young researchers in Europe, and to light-house research. At the same time, the participants highlighted that what is currently being done in Europe is not sufficient to be globally competitive and keep up with AI powerhouses such as the USA and China. Europe needs higher ambition and efforts (both in terms of funding and of resources).

The group pushed the discussion further, and brainstormed how to sustain the impact of the NoEs in the EU ecosystem. Some of these ideas are depicted in the menti-meter results, a poll taken during the workshop session (see Appendix 1). They echoed the same sentiment, that more clear and ambitious goals connected to needs are needed for success. These elements need to be underpinned with higher investments (following the example of the Chip Act), instruments (like joined undertakings), and longer-term ambition to connect the different initiatives together. Examples from outside Europe, such as Canada were also highlighted as potential inspiration.

## 3.2 Open Dialogue between the European Commission and the European AI, Data and Robotics Community on Future Research Trends in AI and Large AI Models

### Context

One month after the Community Workshop, on 04 July 2023, representatives from the NoEs attended a workshop organised by the European Commission (more specifically the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT)), in Brussels to discuss how to ensure European leadership in AI research and key strategic research topics. While this workshop was initially not envisaged in the description of Task 6.4, it is nonetheless highly



Deliverable 6.3 - Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report relevant and falls within the scope of this VISION task, and united researchers, industry representatives, and policy makers to “to anchor the excellence networks to the larger EC strategy on AI”. This workshop was the first of a series intended by the European Commission to elicit input from and increase the international visibility of the European AI community.

The workshop created a unique opportunity to obtain direct inputs from the best experts regarding the strategies and visions about where to go in AI and robotics research and innovation and also where to invest. A report, prepared by the VISION dissemination team and published by the European Commission, has been disseminated online<sup>4</sup>. The EU’s six AI Networks of Excellence - [AI4Media](#), [ELISE](#), [ELSA](#), [euROBIN](#), [HUMANE-AI-Net](#), and [TAILOR](#) – participated to this event as they are the networks providing a framework for advancing European AI research and development and its translation to real-world impact in different domains. The NoEs are strongly linked to AI, Data and Robotics Association (ADRA), the private side of a public-private partnership that plays a key role in bringing knowledge from the European research community to industry, as well as networks and AI Lighthouses which began operations in the autumn of 2023 – ELIAS, dAIedge, and ENFIELD.

### Objectives

The European Commission invited the NoEs to help identify existing European strengths in AI and closely related areas, to help map the European AI research landscape and also to identify gaps and challenges. From the perspective of Commission, the workshop served as an opportunity to:

- acknowledge the successes of the networks in research, education and translation, with a commitment to raising the profile of this work internationally;
- discuss the open consultation on ADRA's Strategic Research, Innovation and Deployment Agenda (SRIDA);
- showcase the AI-on-Demand platform as a centralised resource for sharing and exploitation of new results and reusing existing results of AI research to promote the advancement in science towards innovation.

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<sup>4</sup>

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/open-dialogue-between-european-commission-and-european-ai-data-and-robotics-community-future>

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Figure 9: Participants to the Open Dialogue in Brussels - 04 July 2023

### Main topics of discussion

The topics discussed during the open dialogue can be categorised into seven categories: data quality and availability, societal aspects, interactive robotics, Europe and its competitors, young talent, High-performance Computing, and LLMs.

**Data quality and availability:** There is a clear need for AI initiatives that focus on curating massive datasets and on publishing them as commons. This is important because many recent advancements in AI are dependent on very large amounts of data, which are currently not publicly available.

**Societal aspects and social impact of AI, including democratic values:** There is a great need for approaches and applications that mitigate bias, ensure trust, empower citizens and media organisations. Such research and approaches are necessary in order to reduce dependency on non-European platforms and contribute to the fight against disinformation. It is crucial to maximise the opportunities for society but also address numerous and serious risks (including hallucinations by AI systems, disinformation, environmental impact and biases).

**New interactive robotics applications:** In the context of the long-term and medium-term vision for European AI and robotics, there is potential for massive deployment of interactive robotics approaches in many sectors beyond industry and manufacturing. Breakthroughs in robotics are expected in healthcare and assistance, as well as in maintenance of infrastructure and agriculture. Still, big challenges remain in transferring AI into technologies and physical systems with all the

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 uncertainty that is in real word, as well as in terms of impact on critical infrastructure and cyber security of such systems.

**Europe vs the US and China:** There are structural differences between the AI-driven industry in Europe and other leading countries, namely US and China. To some extent, Europe lacks global AI players. It is important to encourage the European industry to invest and grow in the field. Together, the NoEs represent a strong research community that can and does help European industry to develop new solutions and technologies to address real grand challenges across disciplines with a knowledge-based, human-centric approach. The opportunity and strengths for Europe lay at the intersection of AI and its embodiments in robotics.

**Young talents:** In close collaboration with industry, it will be important to create an environment in which young talents can thrive and will thus be encouraged to stay in Europe and realise their visionary plans there, either in AI research or innovations. In this, a well-balanced regulation and standardisation in favour of EU values can support innovation to take a European direction. Europe's universities are producing great talent, but Europe as a whole is struggling to retain these talents and offer junior AI researchers and innovators a favourable environment for transformative projects or the creation of start-up companies. EU member states tend to be fundamentally risk-averse, and thus reluctant to make high-risk investments. In addition, there is insufficient infrastructure for large-scale projects in AI, such as the training of state-of-the-art LLMs.

**High-performance computing (HPC):** There is a clear recognition that standard HPC infrastructure is insufficient, and that computational infrastructure should be tailored to the needs of AI research. This includes appropriate architecture (GPUs), sufficient storage for large amounts of training data, access for small-scale development and continuous access to shared infrastructure. Seconding or expanding existing HPC infrastructure is insufficient.

**Large language models (LLMs):** LLMs are at the forefront of attention, as these systems are now accessible to a broad public. In addition to these public models, others exist, for example in medical imaging or radiology. There was substantial discussion regarding the need for a European open multimodal generative model that, jointly developed in 2 or 3 years, would be compliant with shared European values. This would be based on a multilingual concept reflecting the cultural diversity, transparency of training data, trustable information, protection of the rights of creators as well as protection against bias, fake or meaningless content with a clear distinction between human-generated and machine-generated content.

### Outcomes

**Proposal for a European Large AI Challenge:** As a short-term action, the community proposed an idea of having a pan-European Large AI Challenge that would provide selected teams with shared capacity and targeted support - including computing power, software and large-scale data sets.

Representatives of the NoEs provided valuable insights, leveraging the work they had done together in recent months on the [Joint Strategic Research Agenda \(SRA\)](#). In particular, the workshop provided many interesting insights on future research trends as well as contributions to the medium- and long-term vision that should guide the initiatives the EU is preparing for the next round of funding programmes. In addition, the diverse perspectives and expertise of the NoEs proved to provide a solid basis for reflecting on the needs of the industry and innovation community.

## 4 Conclusion and outlook

The expected outcome of these two distinct types of events was to contribute to the larger AI dialogue and to the research agenda. This was achieved at different levels, notably to reach out to society at large at the national and European levels during the AI Open Days and to stakeholders (researchers, industry representatives, policy makers) involved in European AI strategy at the high-level dialogue events.

The AI Open Days provided an opportunity for the NoEs and the VISION project to present their activities in an understandable way to the general public and to interact with local communities in the hosting location – Brussels and Prague. While attendance was limited, this provided an intimate setting for interactive discussions and community building together with the NoE representatives who participated on site. The broad success of the YouTube videos, notably from the first AI Open Day, provided a global reach to this local, European initiative. Recommendations for future AI Open Day events or similar events are to maintain the interactive format with keynotes, demonstrations, and panel discussions, to engage with both representatives of the European AI community as well as local communities and stakeholders, and consider the hybrid model as needed, while encouraging on-site participation as much as possible.

The high-level events which took place just one month apart provided momentum and concrete recommendations during the intense discussions and decision making processes, which took place over the summer of 2023, and which directly influenced and impacted the research strategy and objectives for the European AI Community in the coming months and years. It was also a reflection of the importance of discussing pressing topics that resonate with the AI community at a particular moment in time, in parallel to EC strategic priorities. The development of a challenge such as the proposed European Large AI Challenge is an effective way to reach out to the scientific community beyond the NoEs and Horizon Europe projects.

Both the public AI Open Days and the High-level events had to be adaptable to the context in which they found themselves, the cultural and local constraints of where the events were held (notably for the AI Open Days) and initially flexible to potentially hybrid conditions should the pandemic have inhibited on-site participation. This highlighted the importance of CSAs to be as specific as possible in their contractual obligations, while at the same time allowing for flexibility as necessary to best address current issues and priorities of the AI Community, the European Commission, and society at large.

## Appendix 1 – Participant responses to Session 2 – Community Workshop – June 2023

### How to maximize and sustain the impact of the NoEs within the European 'ecosystem of excellence' ?

15 Answers

We need to find a way to continue the efforts started...how is a challenging question

Can the next NoEs take up some initiatives?

some funding to sustain the community and enable them to stay in contact

Convince EC to provide sustainable funding (as to prevent starting over with new projects)

Support 'bottom-up', self-sustaining communities of research and practice

Set clear goals for collaboration with long-term incentives.

Provide longer-term funding, incentives for sustained activities rather than short bursts of 3-4 years.

Indeed continuation of existing successful initiatives is important

Radically change the EC approach to building and sustaining the ecosystem of excellence. Follow lessons learned from the Canadian model.

### Deliverable 6.3 - Enhancing the European Strategic Research & Innovation AI Dialogue Report

Offer 1Meuros prize for some extraordinary project that necessarily involves several of the technologies we want to promote (see e. g. Darpa challenges)

Focus funding on larger-scale, longer-term and newsworthy initiatives and activities.

Leveraging professional connections resulting from the NOEs collaborations to come up with joined initiatives/projects & may be coming up with grand challenges that need many to work on

Collaboration is beneficial but costly and should be organized carefully

Joint communication initiatives could be continued and furthered by the next NoEs.

Focus on the unique selling proposition and added value that each NoE has to offer, with users/beneficiaries with a real interest.