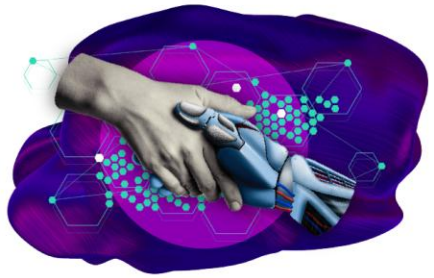

Europe's vision for AI

Kilian Gross

Head of Unit AI Regulation and Compliance

European AI Office - European Commission

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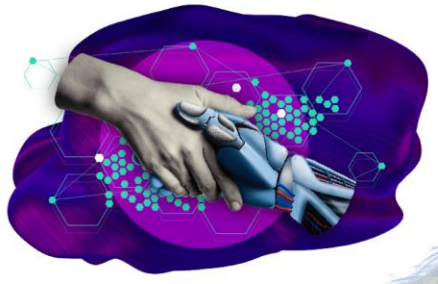

Through our Artificial Intelligence (AI), Europe is already leading the way on making AI safer and more trustworthy, and on tackling the risks stemming from its misuse. We must now focus our efforts on becoming a global leader in AI innovation.

Political Guidelines from President Ursula von der Leyen,
18 July 2024

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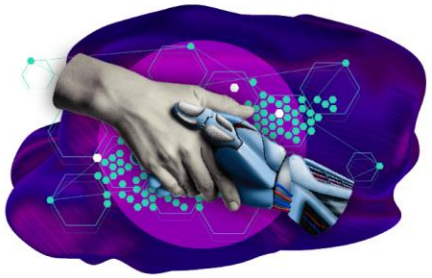

EVP for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy
Mission letter

'Your task is to lead Europe's efforts in shaping a competitive, resilient and inclusive digital future.'

Artificial Intelligence

- Ensure start-ups access supercomputing capacity: **AI Factories initiative**
- Boost new industrial uses of AI: **Apply AI Strategy**
- Help with the setup of a **European AI Research Council**
- Provide 'computational capital' to innovative SMEs: **EU Cloud and AI Development Act**
- Ensure the timely and predictable implementation of the European Digital Rulebook to boost productivity and protect our security and Democracy -> **AI Act** implementation and international promotion
- Promote EU digital norms and **standards** internationally […] in particular for AI and cyber

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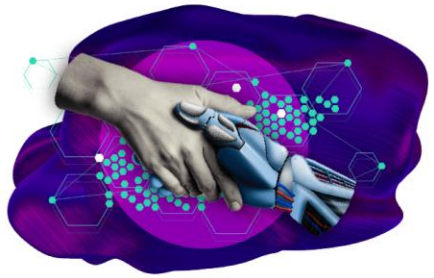
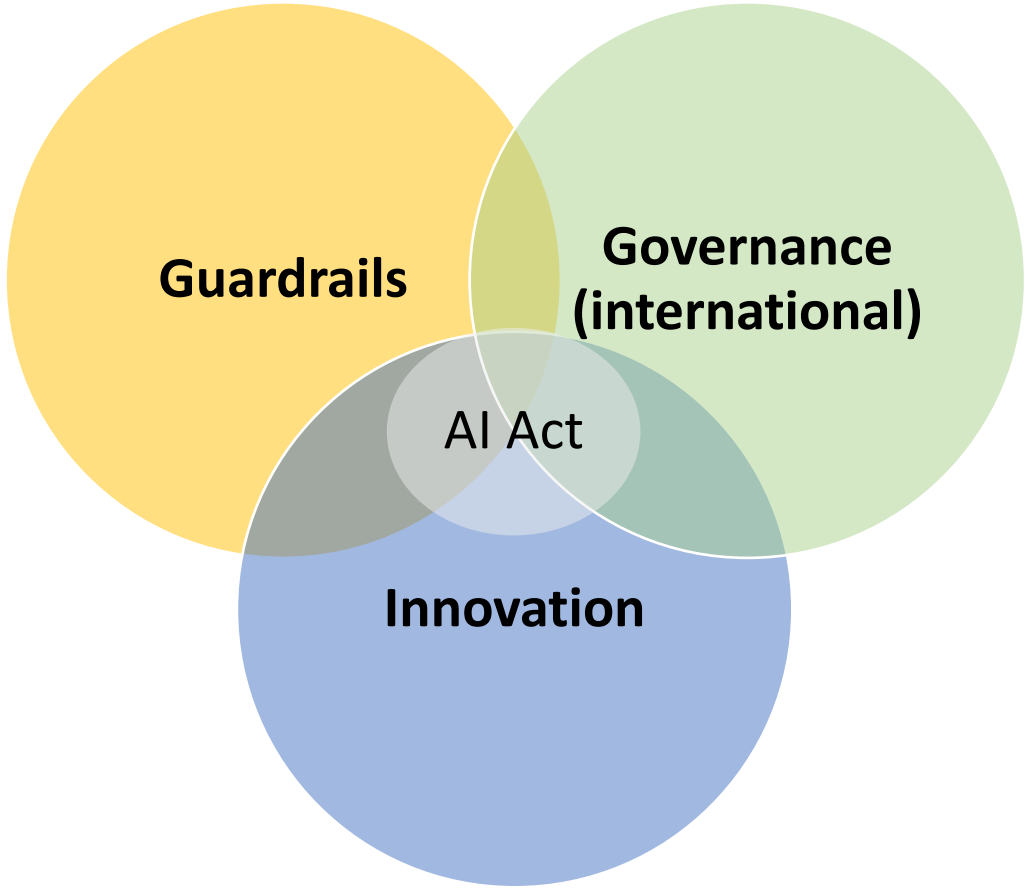


Objectives of the EU's AI policy



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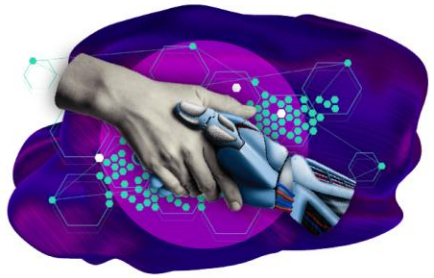

Apply AI Strategy

Based on the President's ***Political Guidelines 2024-2029 and the Draghi Report***

"We will also develop with Member States, industry and civil society an ***Apply AI Strategy to boost new industrial uses of AI and to improve the delivery of a variety of public services.****"*

Objective: delivering an **overarching plan** to:

1. further support the **development of world class AI models** in the EU and
2. foster the **integration of AI technologies into EU's most strategic sectors** with the aim of
3. unlocking the potential of innovation (i.e. **AI adoption**) and **enabling European companies to be global front-runners**.

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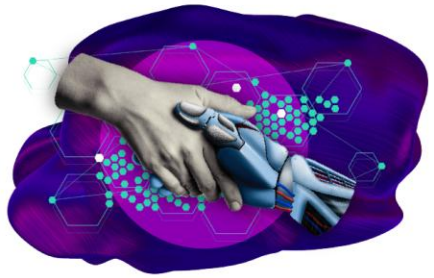
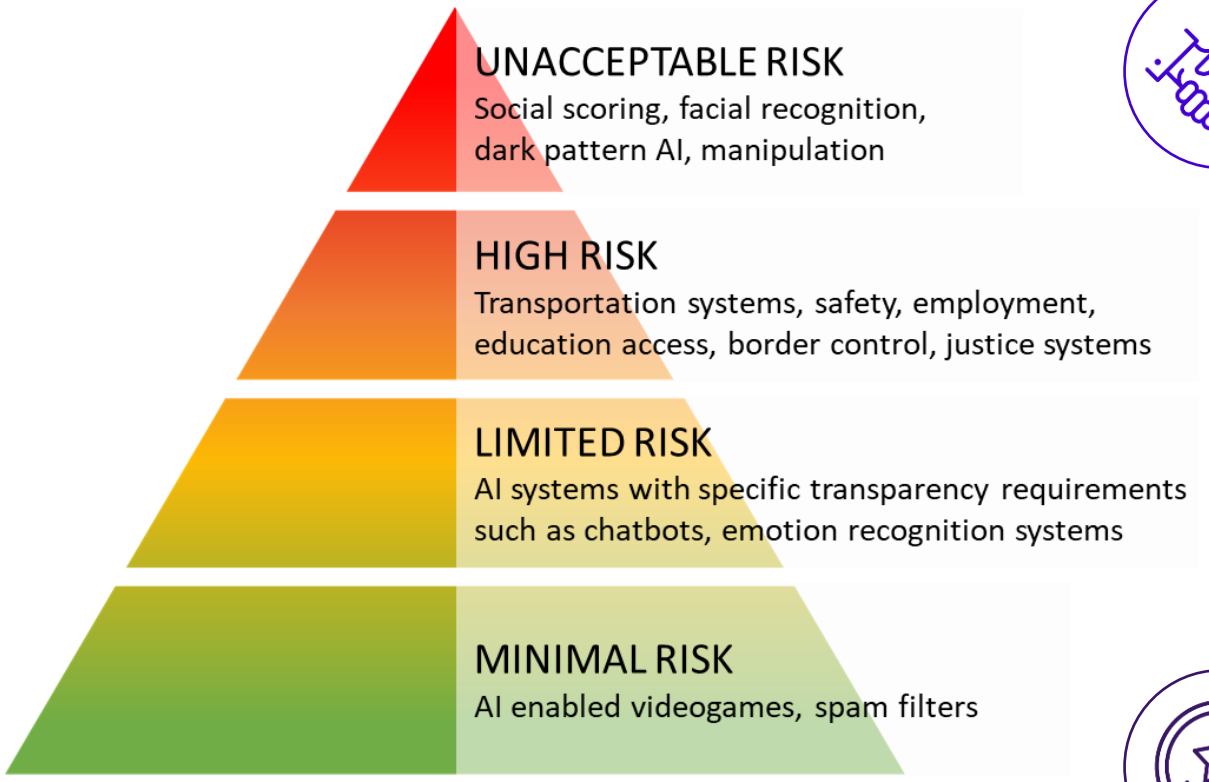


AI Act provides legal certainty and is innovation friendly



- First regulation on artificial intelligence
- Risk-based approach
- Entered into force 1 August 2024
- Governance: AI Board, Scientific Panel, Advisory Panel and AI Office

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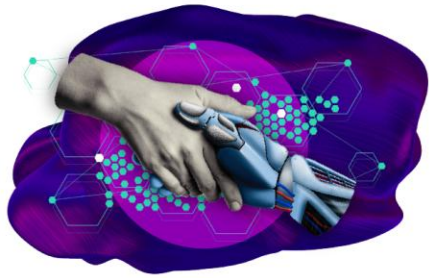

AI Regulatory Sandboxes in the EU AI Act and AI Board

- The AI Act lays down a **common framework** for the establishment and operation of AI regulatory sandboxes as a measure in **support of innovation**.
- The AI Act requires Member States and their national competent authorities to **establish at least one AI regulatory sandbox** on a **national level** that must be operational **by 2 August 2026**.
- The AI Board has decided to establish a sub-group to **address specific issues** related to sandboxes (such as coordination and support in their establishment and uniform operation).
- Main objective of the first meeting is to **kickstart the work on AI regulatory sandboxes**.
- Commission also to adopt implementing acts with common rules for the establishment and operation of sandboxes across Member States and joint sandboxes at EU level.

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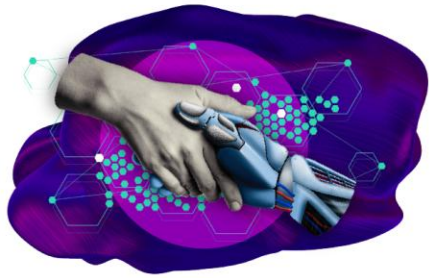

EU-level Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

- **Objective**: support EU Member States and National Competent Authorities in establishing and operating the AI Regulatory Sandboxes, as mandate by the AI Act by August 2026, as well as coordinate their work
- **Time**: 2 years

1. **Common guidelines**, **frameworks**, **processes**, and **tools** for NCAs to establish, operate, and the sandboxes
2. **Technical** and **legal support** as well as **training** for NCAs
3. **Pilots** and practical testing of the output of this action
4. **Analysis** of the accumulated experience in the sandboxes with recommendation
5. Publishing of all material and tools on the **single digital platform**

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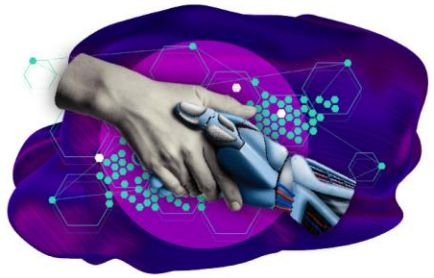

Towards the Implementing Act on AI Sandboxes

First meeting of the AI Sandboxes Subgroup

5 December 2024

Presentation of the **AI office's discussion paper on AI sandboxes** and seeking feedback towards the implementing act

DEP Coordination and Support Action (CSA)

January 2025

Kick-off of the 2-years-long **sandbox CSA project** supporting the establishment of AI regulatory sandboxes across the Union

Stakeholders' consultations

Q1-Q2 2025

Consultations as part of the CSA project and – more broadly – **as part of the AI Applied Strategy**

Implementing act

Within Q3 2025

Drawing up and adoption of the **implementing act by the Commission** (via comitology after opinion of the Committee composed of Member States)

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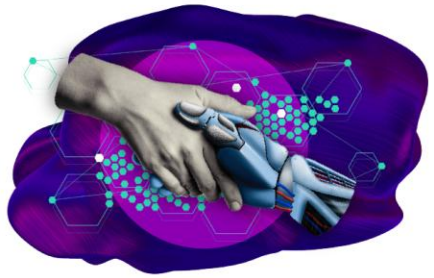

AI ecosystem

Provide digital support and guidance, especially to SMEs and start-ups

European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)

Support testing and experimentation with dedicated facilities

Testing and Experiment. Facilities (TEFs)

AI regulatory sandboxes

AI Factories and EuroHPC

Provide computing power for the development of AI systems

Facilitate the exchange of data sharing among stakeholders

Data Spaces

AI-on-demand platform

Provide access to expertise, knowledge, algorithms and tools

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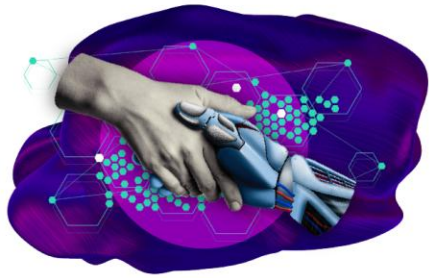

Governance and supervision outline

Coordination and support

- AI Board and AI Sandboxes Sub-group
- European Commission (AI Office)

Establishment and management

- Joint (cross-boarder) AI reg. sandboxes
- EU AI regulatory sandbox for EU institutions bodies and agencies
- Member States' Competent Authorities on AI
- Member States' Competent Authorities on AI
- European Data Protection Supervisor
- National horizontal AI reg. sandboxes
- Domain-specific AI reg. sandboxes

Infrastructure, facilities, data and tools

- EDIHs
- TEFs
- Computer Infrastruc. (HPC)
- AI Factories
- Data spaces
- AI-on-demand platform

Communication and dissemination

- EU single information platform for AI regulatory sandboxes

Advice, support, engagement

- Other relevant authorities
- Notified bodies
- Standard. organisations
- Enterprises & innovators
- Centres of excellence
- Research Institutes & Universities

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