

# AI CONTINENT ACTION PLAN

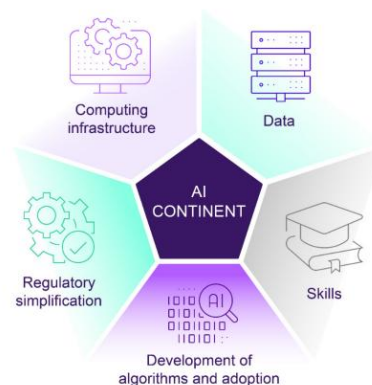
## Policy briefing

<b>Weblink</b>	<a href="https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/ai-continent_en">https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/ai-continent_en</a>
<b>Relevance</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> National policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EU policy <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____
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## Short summary of the policy

The European Commission aims for the EU to become a global leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI). With the AI Continent Action Plan, the Commission aims to promote the development and deployment of AI solutions that can benefit both society and the economy. The plan contains a number of actions to build on the EU's strengths, such as a single set of safety rules, high-quality research, a substantial pool of scientists and skilled AI professionals, industrial expertise and a thriving start-up and scale-up scene, and world-class computational power with data spaces that are accessible to all.

The AI Continent Action Plan focuses on five key domains:



## Computing infrastructure

- scaling up of the EU's AI infrastructure to allow innovators and researchers to train and finetune AI models, by strengthening the network of AI Factories and by establishing resource-efficient Gigafactories;
- bringing together researchers, industry and investors to tackle forward-looking projects in areas like healthcare, biotechnology, industry, robotics and scientific discovery.
- facilitating and upscaling of private-sector investment in cloud capacity and sustainable data centres

## Data

- more access to high-quality data for AI innovators
- development of a Data Union Strategy (expected in Q3/2025)
- exploring the development of Data Labs as integral components of AI Factories

## Skills

- relying on strong AI talent base to reinforce AI skills by further developing excellence in AI education, training and research
- attracting more women to AI
- raising awareness of AI in wider society and public administration
- attracting and retaining talent from outside the EU

## Development of algorithms and adoption

- stimulating further development of AI algorithms and leveraging their adoption in strategic sectors (such as healthcare, automotive and advanced manufacturing)
- concrete actions to boost new uses of AI in industry, research and public services through Apply AI Strategy (expected in Q3/2025)

## Regulatory simplification

- facilitating compliance with the AI Act, especially for smaller innovators, to build on the EU's single market with one set of clear rules

## Main objectives of the policy

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- Setting up at least 15 [AI factories](#) and several antennas across Europe, using the EU's world-leading supercomputing network. These factories will support startups, industry, and researchers to develop cutting-edge AI models and applications
- Establishing up to 5 AI gigafactories, large-scale facilities with massive computing power and data centres to enable the training of complex AI models at an unprecedented scale
- Driving private investment in gigafactories by proposing the Cloud and AI Development Act and by mobilising 20 billion euro through the [InvestAI Facility](#)
- Boosting the use of AI in industries and integrating AI into strategic sectors such as public sector and healthcare
- Educating and training the next generation of AI experts and attracting and retaining talent from non-EU countries
- Simplifying the implementation of the AI Act for companies and EU countries

## Context and relation to the Digital Europe Programme (DEP)

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The AI Continent Action Plan strongly relates to the Digital Europe Programme with a special focus on Specific Objective 2 (see below). Under the Main Work Programme 2025-2027, a budget of more than 705 million euro is foreseen for projects and activities related to AI.

The DEP Work Programme 2025-2027 supports among others the implementation of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act and the AI Innovation package communication and the objective to make Europe an AI continent. The Work Programme builds on previous actions in the area of AI: it aims to upgrade existing testing facilities to validate generative AI (GenAI) applications, supports the

development of tools for GenAI applications and their uptake by businesses and the public administration, and focuses on healthcare as an important area where advanced applications such as Virtual Human Twins and AI-based solutions for medical imaging or diagnostics, screening, and treatment are created. Virtual worlds testbeds for industrial applications (such as manufacturing, construction, or industrial design) and societal applications (such as education, cultural heritage or healthcare) aim to support innovators to test and validate their technologies and solutions in real-world environments. With such advancements in AI and generative AI applications, the Commission intends to contribute to further digitalisation of other sectors, including sectors key for the green digital transition such as energy and mobility.

The European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) covered in the European Digital Innovation Hubs Work Programme 2021-2023, will continue under the Main Work Programme 2025-27 with a special focus on (generative) AI to support in the following years the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), mid-caps and public sector in their twin digital-green transitions.

### **Parts of the policy directly related to specific objectives (SO) in DEP**

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The AI Continent Action Plan is directly related to Specific Objective 2 (SO2), the former Specific Objective on AI, Data & Cloud, which has been renamed in the Digital Europe Main Work Programme 2025-27 to Specific Objective 2 – AI Continent.

SO2 includes the implementation of the Apply AI Strategy, Common European Data Spaces and underlying cloud infrastructure as key data resources for AI Factories and the continuation of the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) with a strengthened focus on AI and generative AI support services.

### **Activities in the DEP Work Programme 2025-27 contributing to the objectives of the policy**

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All AI-related call topics under the Digital Europe Main Work Programme (SO2) contribute to the achievement of the ambitions of making Europe an AI continent. The Digital Europe programme is one of the main tools to achieve this goal.

In Q4/2025, the following related call topics have been opened for submission:

- [Health: Data ingestion capacities and data services for the European Genomic Data Infrastructure in the European Health Data Space: data tools](#)
- [Health: Data ingestion capacities and data services for the European Genomic Data Infrastructure in the European Health Data Space: data storage and processing](#)
- [Apply AI: GenAI for the public administrations](#)
- [Data Space for Manufacturing](#)
- [Virtual worlds test beds](#)
- [Secretariat of the European Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Alliance](#)
- [Collaboration platform for the European connected and autonomous vehicle of the future](#)
- [Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs \(EDIHs with reinforced AI focus\)](#)

## Related policies and further information

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Several other EU policy and legislative initiatives (in place or forthcoming) are linked with the AI Continent:

- AI Innovation Package
- GenAI4EU Initiative
- Union of Skills
- InvestAI
- Apply AI Strategy
- Data Union Strategy
- Startup and Scale Up Strategy
- Cloud and AI Development Act
- AI in Science Strategy

Please see also the [AI Continent Action Plan Factsheet](#) (© European Union)