

Artificial intelligence: EUA calls for openness, multidisciplinary and ethical standards

The [European University Association](#) (EUA) welcomes the European Commission's [Communication on "Artificial Intelligence for Europe"](#). While this is a first step towards an adequate and sustainable framework at the European level, the next steps of ensuring the right conditions for research and education will be key. Universities, as major stakeholders in the artificial intelligence debate, will play a central role in the foundation of this framework and the new institutions.

As a transversal technology, artificial intelligence can be applied in many different areas such as health, transport, energy, climate change and finance. It has the potential to change our societies through ground-breaking innovations. **Open Science, open innovation and multidisciplinary education and research are crucial to unleash this potential:**

- **Data is the lifeblood of artificial intelligence:** Europe needs to continue to promote Open Science and Open Access to data and research results;
- **Algorithms alone do not lead to innovations:** the value of artificial intelligence lies in its domain-specific application. Therefore, research and education in this area need multi- and interdisciplinarity for cross fertilisation between different fields;
- **Artificial intelligence needs creative experts and innovators:** in order to develop and use artificial intelligence in a meaningful, sustainable and ethically responsible way, students of all ages need learning environments that enable them to develop the right skills and mindset through research-based, multidisciplinary and student-centred education.

Universities, with their mission in research and education, play a crucial role in providing this open and multidisciplinary environment. They are key actors in addressing evolving societal needs and in providing the necessary knowledge to create new opportunities emerging from artificial intelligence. This role needs to be reflected when investing in excellence centres.

With this in mind, the European Commission and member states should work together with stakeholders towards:

- **Appropriate regulatory and funding frameworks:**
 - ensuring an open approach to text and data mining in the new [Proposal](#) for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on copyright in the Digital Single Market;
 - a European Charter for artificial intelligence as an underlying ethical code of conduct for its development and application;
 - ensuring the resources and autonomy of universities to develop innovative learning environments;
 - supporting innovation ecosystems and smart specialisation to ensure that artificial intelligence is applied to local research strengths, for example through open innovation;
 - increasing synergies between and compatibility of different funding instruments at EU and national levels.

- **Moving towards Open Science**

- embedding Open Science, including Open Access in national and European funding programmes;
- ensuring full compatibility of national and European research policies.

- **The development and efficient use of resources and infrastructure**

- investing in adequate infrastructure (e.g. the European Open Science Cloud and Europe-wide infrastructure for risk assessment, artificial intelligence safety and ethical monitoring);
- supporting the creation of more multidisciplinary research environments and systematic student involvement and building on the capacities of universities and research organisations.

Given the current global context, it is of the highest importance that the EU becomes a model for combining cutting-edge research and education, a highly competitive industry, and the highest standards in artificial intelligence safety and applied ethics. EUA is working with its members and partners on a number of related issues and looks forward to engaging in a dialogue with the European institutions about how to concretely take “Artificial Intelligence for Europe” forward.

With more than 800 members, the **European University Association** (EUA) is the representative organisation of universities and national rectors' conferences in 47 European countries.

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