

TietoEVRY on EU level AI regulation



About TietoEVRY

TietoEVRY creates digital advantage for businesses and society. We are a leading digital services and software company with local presence and global capabilities. Our Nordic values and heritage steer our success.

Headquartered in Finland, TietoEVRY employs around 24 000 experts globally. The company serves thousands of enterprise and public sector customers in more than 90 countries. TietoEVRY's annual turnover is approximately EUR 3 billion and its shares are listed on the NASDAQ in Helsinki and Stockholm as well as on the Oslo Børs.

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Towards a united European regulatory framework for Artificial intelligence

TietoEVRY welcomes the European Commission's initiative to advance the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in Europe and worldwide, as well as its choice of a risk-based approach to the upcoming regulation that respects the core principles of the single market. We share the EU's goal of promoting the development and deployment of Artificial intelligence based on European values.

The challenge for the lawmakers remains to achieve strong development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence that reflect European values and fundamental rights, and at the same time fosters innovation and enterprise opportunity. It is essential that inadequately high costs of compliance, ambiguity and uncertainty of the continuously evolving regulatory framework do not prevent innovative Artificial intelligence solutions from being developed or reaching the market.

Involvement of the industry

The draft regulation delegates to the European Commission the authority to amend and expand on multiple key parts of the regulation by means of delegated and implementing acts. This authority pertains, for example, to the role and organisation of the regulatory sandboxes, the definition of Artificial intelligence and the scope of high-risk applications. Companies and other stakeholders would merely have the role of an observer and commentator in the process.

To reassure the market actors that the European regulatory framework will continue to foster innovation and enterprise opportunity in the future, a greater role and involvement of European industry in the process should be envisioned. This would reflect the EU's stated objective of not only ensuring the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence but also making the EU an operating environment where new technologies thrive from the lab to the market. As the rapidly developing new technologies pose a unique challenge to the European lawmakers, it is more important than ever to make full use of the latest data, knowledge and expertise that companies and other organizations gather from being involved in the development and implementation of new Artificial intelligence solutions.

Role of the regulatory sandboxes

TietoEVERY welcomes the European Commission's decision to include regulatory sandboxes in the draft regulation. It is now essential to assemble a clear vision of the sandboxes and their role in making the EU a leader in Artificial intelligence and ensure the involvement of the industry in that planning process. We would highlight the need of fully connecting regulatory sandboxes into the market so that proof of concepts lead to scalable and profitable Artificial Intelligence solutions while ensuring full compliance with European law. Furthermore, the regulatory sandboxes should be strongly linked to the EU's relevant research and development funding instruments.

Definition of Artificial intelligence

The proposed regulation offers a very broad definition of Artificial intelligence based on a list of techniques and approaches, which the European Commission would be empowered to unilaterally update when necessary. The stated purpose of the broad definition is to make the new regulation futureproof, which is a commendable goal. However, technology-specific legislation tends to lag behind market developments and emerging technologies due to the inevitable delays stemming from the legislative process. In order to truly achieve futureproof regulation with the desired results, TietoEVERY would like to encourage the EU lawmakers to consider, as an option, to define the scope of the regulation based on concrete outcomes rather than specific technologies.





Conclusions

The rapid development of Artificial intelligence challenges the existing legal frameworks in multiple ways. In TietoEVERY's view, the EU is on the right track in attempting to create a united European framework for Artificial intelligence, aiming at both encouraging the uptake of new technologies in Europe and setting the common ethical standards for their usage. It is now essential to ensure that the regulatory framework is developed in an unambiguous and predictable manner, where the industry is fully involved in shaping the design and implementation of the key principles.

TietoEVERY would like to thank the EU institutions for their openness to engage in a dialogue with industry stakeholders during the legislative process. There are many difficult open questions yet to be solved, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue with the Members of the European Parliament, the EU Member States and the European Commission, as the draft regulation is being finalized and shaped into new legislation.

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