

Title: For A Civic Artificial Intelligence

Text (max 1,100 characters)

We ask the Commission to develop artificial intelligence systems, at the service of the right to knowledge and democracy.

We call for the creation of AI systems that are open source, with all the helpful information to maximize the possibility to study, understand, reproduce, and verify such AI systems,, trained on data that the scientific community can access -including documents of the public administrations of the Member States and the EU, such as legislation, case law, cultural and scientific heritage.

Applications and services built on AI multilingual systems will, among other things, help citizens in their dealings with the EU and states, and will improve knowledge of the rules and facilitate democratic participation, allowing everyone to interact in simple and not necessarily technical language.

The governance of the management and development of the model must foster the development of a competitive economic industry and reduce the risk of oligopoly and interference by commercial interests or state control.

SUBJECT, OBJECTIVES AND BACKGROUND (max 5,000 characters)

The recent advances shown by generative AI, especially Large Language Models (LLM), suggest a huge impact on every human activity and on the economic system. Among the immense opportunities, various risks accompanying the diffusion of these technologies are that of increased inequality as a consequence of the natural inclination to the production of oligopoly in the market of model development and ownership. As LLMs spread, integrating their functions into a multitude of products, often imperceptibly to the end user, the possibility of having transparent control over the models and training sets used for training will become increasingly important in order to better understand how the system works. The EU already adopted the AI Act, but sound rules are not enough: an effective public AI system is also needed to create a model based on the public interest and citizens empowerment, having democracy at its core.

The Commission's contribution is necessary because LLMs have been shown to improve performance as they increase in size, and the cost of training increases accordingly;. It seems clear that in order to be internationally competitive, very big investments are needed, which are more easily achieved on a European scale.

We therefore call upon the European Commission to help realize LLMs conceived as suggested. The model could also be integrated upstream in the regulatory process, assisting the legislator in the writing of rules (as way of example, suggesting text variants during the drafting phase that would increase readability and comprehensibility) and allowing citizens to

check the activity performed by the legislator. The training of the model could be extended to copyrighted material, respecting copyright owners rights.

An initial application of the developed model will consist in the realization of a support for citizens and enterprises in their relations with the European and Member State institutions, also in the form of a virtual assistant. The purpose of the service will be to enhance knowledge of rules and rights, enabling everyone to interact in a simple and not necessarily technical language and to activate any means of popular participation (resolutions, laws, referendums, civic assemblies drawn by lot, petitions, etc.).

The governance of the management and development of the model and derived services should foster the possibility to study, understand, reproduce and verify the AI systems and therefore trust in the same systems, respect of the fundamental rights in EU democracies, the values of freedom, equality and fraternity in the society, and it will reduce the risk of interference by oligopolistic commercial interests or the risk of authoritarian state control. This could be realised through a non-profit organisation or foundation.