

Västra Götalandsregionen

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Region Västra Götaland's position paper on EU's white paper on Artificial intelligence

Key messages:

- Open and machine-readable data is a prerequisite for well-functioning AI
- High quality data is a necessity for the development of excellence
- The development and use of AI should be guided by norms and ethical principles
- Skills development related to AI is of strategic importance for long-term competitiveness and robustness of our societies
- Utilize existing structures and ecosystems at regional, national and European level.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to contribute significantly in a number of areas such as increased economic growth as well as solutions to environmental and social challenges. Already today, there are examples of AI enabling better diagnoses of diseases, reducing energy use, reducing traffic accidents, creating new services, streamlining industrial production, developing new drugs and shortening red tape.

Data needs to be made available for AI to contribute with desirable effects. It is by using large amounts of data that AI can be useful in diagnosing diseases and contributing to preventive health, for example. Data is a basic prerequisite for AI applications - **without data no AI**. To ensure the personal integrity in the use of data for the development and use of AI solutions, common EU policies and guidelines are needed. The policies should include how to anonymize, pseudonymize and, where applicable, how to regulate the use of synthetic data, since merging different data sources increase the risks of privacy.

Furthermore, the data needs to be of high quality. It is also desirable that the data is made in a standard machine-readable format for automated processes. It is the availability of high-quality data that enables the development and wide usage of AI applications. High-quality data is characterized by large-scale representative data that includes gender equality and takes people's differences into consideration. Thus, to ensure the uptake of AI solutions for everyone, a well-conceived idea and desire to create solutions that can be used by every single individual, is a necessity. This implies that differences must be rewarded in all datasets. It is with representative data that ethical principles can be ensured. The development and use of AI need to be guided by norms and ethical principles in addition of being based on the principles of human equality and rights. All EU AI applications and use should be guided by a general clause ensuring this principle. The overall goal should be to ensure sustainable AI, which implies that AI applications should be ethical, safe, reliable and

transparent. Ethical and safety considerations must be an integrated part of the early design stage of all AI applications, a simple reflection of ethical considerations is not enough to ensure sustainable AI.

Access to expertise is a key factor in achieving competitive AI. Resources need to be invested in both the public and private sector for skills development and for an uptake of AI. The access to different types of infrastructures is vital to reach excellence. It is therefore important to take advantage of already existing infrastructures at regional, national and European level. Regions have long experience of supporting and collaborating with actors in different ecosystems and infrastructures at regional level. These already existing forms of cooperation and ecosystems should be considered in the future work in the field of digitalisation and AI.

Region Västra Götaland

Region Västra Götaland, governed by democratically elected politicians, has around 50 000 employees and is in addition to regional development also responsible for providing health care and public transport for all inhabitants in Västra Götaland. Västra Götaland is home to 1.7 million inhabitants. As a large procuring organisation and employer, Region Västra Götaland has the ambition to act as a forerunner within sustainable development and as test bed for new ideas and innovations. Together with the 49 municipalities, trade and industry, organisations and academia, we drive development with Västra Götaland's best interests as objective.