

Dear AFIRE Sprint Attendees,

Great to see you today and get moving with experimental evaluation of AI in funding.

Already we saw some common topics which might be candidates to work on in groups: reviewer matching; proposal topic labelling/semantic search over proposals; social impact assessment using AI tools; navigating applications or internal documentation with chatbots, to name a few.

Amidst all of this was the repeated concern about data confidentiality and security. It is beyond the scope of this sprint - which is really about evaluating the use of AI - to focus on technical challenges like building local LLMs to work with in house data, but it seems that for a subset of agencies just beginning to think about what is possible can't begin until this step is overcome. Maybe we need a separate "running local AI for your funding data" sprint/code club, after the summer? Let me know!

Back with experiments:

- **Your homework** is to continue the final exercise of the day: Which ONE use of AI in your organisation is easiest to test if it is working (and HOW)? Formulate this as an IF-THEN statement, IF [we use AI to do X] THEN [we will be able to measure Y]

- Please complete the [Session 1 feedback survey](#) so we can feedback the results to the group next time.

- The pre-session activity for session 2 is coming soon!

- Next week we have asked you to reserve the time for a one-to-one coaching slot. Your facilitator should have been in touch with the team leader to arrange this already. It can be, 3rd of June, or anytime that week. This is an opportunity to ask any questions and/or work with your facilitator to develop your experimental idea.

- **We're meeting all together next on 10th of June**, where we'll hear some case studies in experiments with AI by funders and do some work on fundamentals of experiment design.

You can check in on the [essential information in this deck](#) (also attached), which is also in the calendar invites for this event. The recordings will be linked in the deck shortly (and shared on the google group). I am aware that some people have had access problems. Let me know if this is you, I will implement a solution next week

Any questions, please let me and the team know

Tom

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