

SUMMARY

'THE NETHERLANDS' AI AND DATA INDUSTRY IS BUILT ON FAIR TECH PRINCIPLES AND FEDERATED DATA AND CLOUD SOLUTIONS.'

That is the ambition behind the Action Agenda AI & Data. AI & Data technology is developing rapidly, presenting major opportunities to increase the Netherlands' earning capacity. But given that the big players in AI and data are based outside of Europe, there are also concerns about sovereignty and autonomy in the Netherlands and across the continent more broadly. While the Action Agenda AI & Data is developing proposals to leverage the opportunities of AI and data, those same proposals are helping to develop alternatives to AI and data products and services that aren't made in the EU.

Yet rather than competing with these non-EU players head-to-head, the Action Agenda seeks to invest in alternatives based on Fair Tech solutions, federated ecosystems, interoperable cloud solutions and sector-specific foundation models. This is the philosophy behind Dutch efforts to build a unique tech position. To achieve this, the country is taking a three-pronged approach. This begins with the required investments in the soft and hard infrastructure of human capital, data standards, interoperable cloud solutions and computing facilities. Secondly, it aims to develop an AI and data industry that is able to develop technology solutions that offer an alternative to non-EU products and services. And thirdly, it seeks to bring about much-needed sector-wide transitions, enabling a cross-sector exchange of data to train foundation models and other data sets. This provides a foundation on which companies can develop business models that boost the Netherlands' earning capacity.

The Action Agenda sets out four innovation programmes designed to achieve this, each connecting the three aforementioned levels.

THE INNOVATION PROGRAMMES ARE:

- GPTNL, developing a commercially viable European large language model (LLM)
- Sector-specific foundation models. This programme develops deeply embedded AI systems that integrate domain-specific knowledge from physical models, observational data and scientific insights
- Data and cloud solutions focused on shared data infrastructure in the Netherlands, including an underlying cloud infrastructure that safeguards autonomy and sovereignty
- Neuromorphic computing focused on technology that delivers efficiency and sustainability gains in AI and data use.

Given the extraordinary pace of non-European tech development, this Action Agenda must be implemented as a matter of urgency. It is not too late to develop an alternative that safeguards Europe's sovereignty and autonomy while opening up new commercial opportunities for the Netherlands. Non-European players are well on their way to solidifying their market position, leaving fewer chances to present a different, distinct approach.

The Action Agenda offers a coordinated, targeted and stimulating approach, driving the development of mutually enhancing regional, national and international instruments and making it easier for Dutch stakeholders to access them. To achieve this, current initiatives need to be expanded and become collaborative. Additional investments also need to be made to implement the innovation programmes. This is the only way to drive the development of a Dutch AI and data industry that is capable of claiming a distinct spot in the market through Fair Tech principles and federated solutions.

