

Weekly Policy News Summary

Year 2021 – Week 25

DG CNECT: New report looks at AI national strategies progress and future steps

The Commission has published a new report that takes stock of national strategies on Artificial Intelligence and provides suggestions for future developments which is a deliverable of the Commission's [AI Watch](#) and was presented during a [joint webinar with the OECD](#). It monitors the AI national strategies of all EU countries, as well as Norway and Switzerland, and this year's update focuses on areas of cooperation for: strengthening AI education and skills; supporting research and innovation to drive AI developments into successful products and services, improving collaboration and networking; creating a regulatory framework to address the ethics and trustworthiness of AI systems; establishing a cutting-edge data ecosystem and ICT infrastructure. The report also provides an overview of the national competence centres in AI research and presents policies to promote data access and sharing as well as actions to stimulate the use of AI in public services. It also highlights country initiatives on regulatory sandboxes to allow experimentation in real-life conditions while reducing burdens to test innovations. The AI Watch platform was set up by the Commission to monitor the implementation of [the Coordinated Plan on AI](#), a joint initiative between the Commission and EU Member States.

CINEA: Calls for EU Missions now open for submissions

The Commission has launched the first calls for projects under Horizon Europe's [Work Programme for 2021-2022](#). EU funding of € 1.216,3 million in total is now available for Climate, Energy and Mobility topics. The projects will be selected for funding in a single-stage evaluation. Please see [here](#) for the table for the call and deadline details. Funding opportunities under Horizon Europe are set out in the multiannual [Climate, Energy and Mobility work programme](#). All funding information and details on how to apply are on the [Funding and Tenders portal](#). The [Online Manual](#) is your guide on the procedures from proposal submission to managing your grant. [Horizon Europe Programme Guide](#) contains the detailed guidance to the structure, budget and political priorities of Horizon Europe. The [Funding & Tenders Portal FAQ](#) – find the answers to most frequently asked questions on submission of proposals. For specific questions related to Horizon Europe, please contact the [Research Enquiry Service](#).

DG CNECT: Policy programme - Digital Decade Compass Roadmap open for feedback

Policy programme - Digital Decade Compass initiative seeks to set up a robust governance framework providing **structured cooperation between the Commission and the Member States to achieve the EU's digital targets**. This initiative should most likely result in Politically Sensitive Important Decision. Until now, a variety of mechanisms has been used for different projects and investments. However, a gap was revealed in the Commission's and MS' toolbox to coordinate funding from MS, the EU budget and private investment for the purposes of deploying and operating infrastructures and services of common interest, outside the research area. Multi-Country Projects would be decisive to achieve the targets and to allow the EU to develop critical technologies and address the lack of digital sovereignty. Notably, the Programme would aim to establish: An obligation for the Commission and Member States to cooperate in order to support and achieve the set of concrete targets for each of the four cardinal points set in the Communication, which translates the EU's ambition for a successfully digitised Europe by 2030 into common concrete objectives. Please go to https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13089-Policy-programme-Digital-Decade-Compass_en