AI in Science – EU Funding Opportinities

University of Nova Gorica
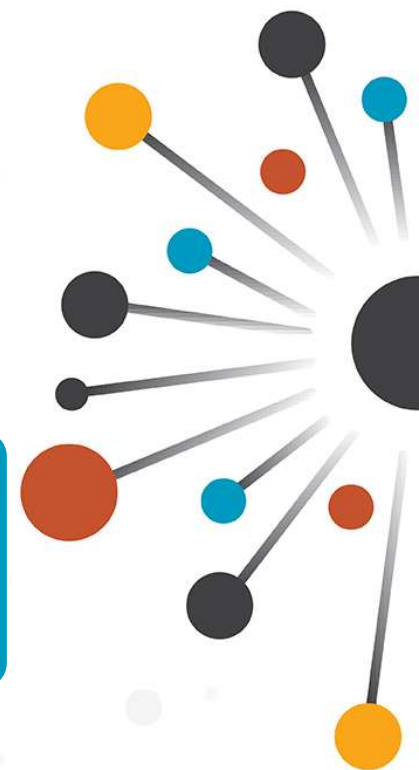
5 February 2026
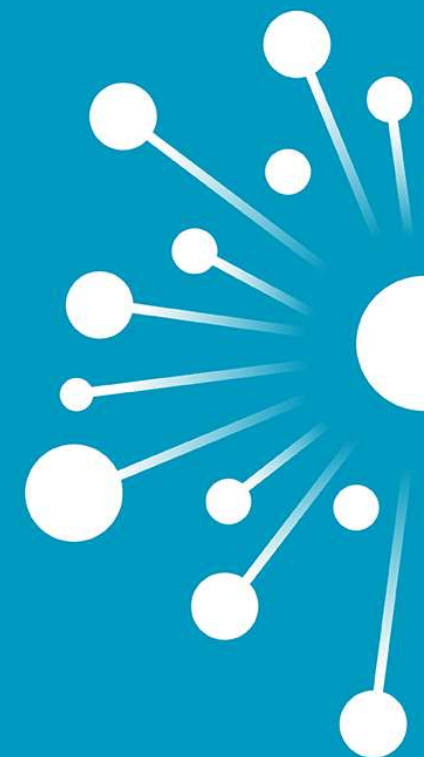
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Ministrstvo of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

AI in Science Strategy

Horizon Europe Calls 2026

Support to applicants

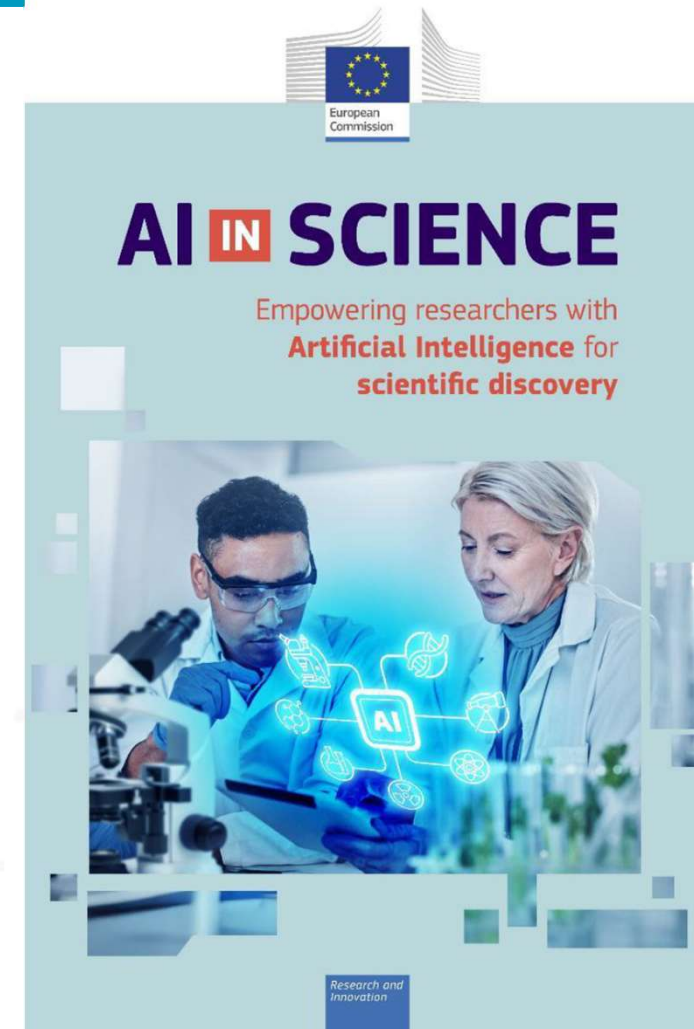# AI in Science

Integrating AI in science can:

- transform scientific work making it more original and creative
- accelerating scientific discovery
- amplifying the impact of science

thereby improving competitiveness and addressing societal challenges.

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Working papers and analytical work

Mutual Learning Exercise on national policies

JRC Report "The Role of AI in Scientific Research"

Policy brief

Council conclusions on AI in Science

POLAND25.EU

Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) opinion

Guidelines on the responsible use of Generative AI in Research

The **AI in science** policy journey

Next step: ERA Action on AI in Science

22 EU Member States

➢ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

7 Associated countries

➢ Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Moldova, Norway, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom

16 Stakeholder Organisations

➢ ALLEA, Aurora, CESAER, Coimbra, EARTO, ECIU, ERIC Forum, EUA, EU-LIFE, Individual researchers, Science Europe, SPARC Europe, STM, The Guild, UAS4EUROPE, YERUN

Objectives:

- aligned policies on AI in Science, including common identification of priority areas

- greater expertise and resource sharing across countries

- a foundation for collaboration and future involvement, for sharing best practices, and for attracting more like-minded partners

- closer collaboration and engagement with stakeholders, setting up networks, and building a community

Framework of EU AI initiatives

AI Continent

- Apply AI Strategy
- AI in Science Strategy
- Data Union Strategy
- Cloud and AI Development Act
- AI Gigafactories
- ....

RAISE
(Resource for AI Science in Europe)
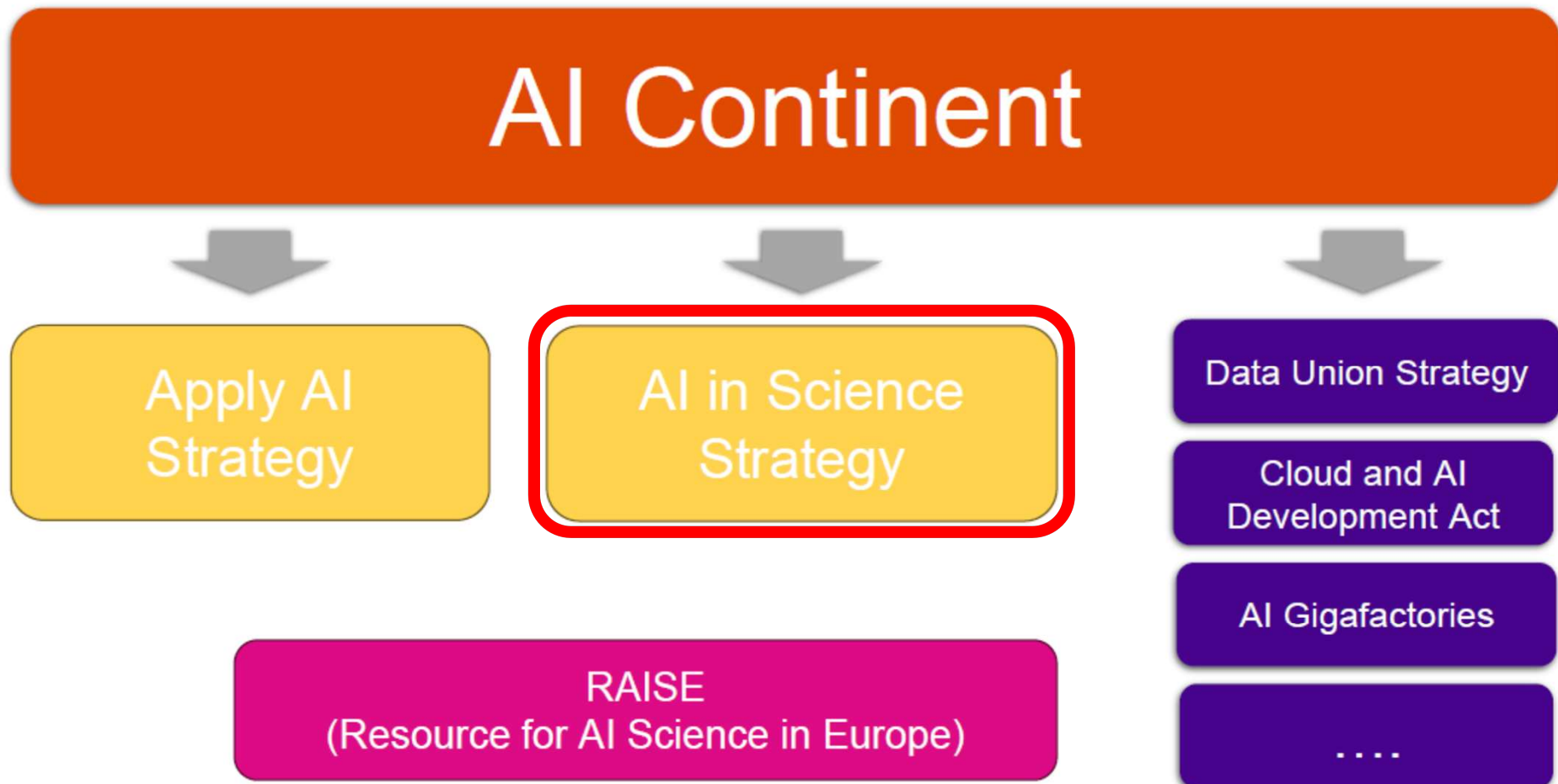
A European Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Science: Paving the way for the Resource for AI Science in Europe (RAISE)

Goals:
- Integrating AI in science to reinforce European competitiveness by accelerating scientific discovery
- Supporting and accelerating the responsible adoption of AI by scientists in all disciplines
- Ensure European scientific leadership, and strategic autonomy

How:
- Pursuing the EU way for AI in science – faire research, trustworthy results
- Building, attracting and retaining AI scientific talent in Europe
- Funding for excellence in AI Science
- Pooling resources by:
  - ➤ Collaborating with private sector
  - ➤ Coordinating with Member States
  - ➤ Cooperating internationally

European AI in Science Strategy - Research and innovation

AI in Science Strategy & RAISE

EU Approach to Safe & Trustworthy AI in Science

Excellence & Talent

Compute — AI Gigafactories

RAISE

Research Funding

Data

Collaboration & Coordination

Startups, Scaleups, Private Sector

Member States Coordination

International Cooperation

AI in Science Strategy

Horizon Europe Calls 2026

Support to applicants

Horizontal Activities in HE Work Programme 2026-2027 – AI in Science

- As part of the RAISE initiative, EC is offering €100 million EUR for five new topics to foster interdisciplinary breakthroughs at the intersection of AI and scientific discovery.

- These actions are expected to create interconnected networks.

- They will help build the RAISE scientific community which will contribute to shaping modern science.

- They represent a coordinated effort to embed AI in the scientific research in Europe and pave the way to RAISE.

- Legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in any actions falling under AI in Science (more in the General Annexes) **!**

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HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01, 6 January – 21 April, 2026

Thematic Networks of Excellence for AI in Science	
HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-01	Thematic Networks of Excellence for AI in Science (RAISE pilot) (RIA)
HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-02	Thematic Networks of Excellence for AI in Science – Agriculture and Environmental Pollution (RAISE pilot) (RIA)

Expected outcome: Network of excellent labs in the 2 selected thematic areas - material science, and agriculture and environmental pollution - to pool talent and expertise operating as a virtual institute across Europe as part of RAISE

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HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-MSCA,
28 May – 24 November, 2026

Doctoral Networks for AI in Science (based on MSCA doctoral networks)	
HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-03	RAISE Doctoral Networks for AI in Science (RAISE pilot) (TMA Doctoral Networks)
HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-03	RAISE Doctoral Networks for AI in Science (RAISE pilot) (TMA Doctoral Networks – Industrial Doctorates)
HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-03	RAISE Doctoral Networks for AI in Science (RAISE pilot) (TMA Doctoral Networks – Joint Doctorates)

➢ the application is submitted to the call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks 2026.

➢ The application must express interest in participating in RAISE doctoral networks and demonstrate thematic consistency with the RAISE call.

➢ The application must meet all MSCA doctoral network eligibility and admissibility requirements.

➢ RAISE applications will be evaluated based on MSCA criteria and scoring system.

HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-MSCA, 28 May – 24 November, 2026

Expected outcomes for doctoral candidates:
- New research and skills in the application of AI in Science, leading to improved employability and career prospects in/out academia;
- Enhanced networking and communication capacities with scientific peers and the general public to increase the impact of research and innovation.

Expected outcomes for organisations:
- Improved quality, relevance and sustainability of doctoral training programmes and supervision arrangements;
- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines;
- Increased integration of training and research activities between participaiting organisations;
- Boosted R&I capacity and uptake of AI in Science;
- Increased internationalisation and attractiveness,
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching.

HORIZON-RAISE-2027-01,

22 September 2026 – 2 February 2027

coming

Automated Labs for AI in Science	
HORIZON-RAISE-2027-01-01	Automated Scientific Discovery (RAISE pilot) (RIA)
HORIZON-RAISE-2027-01-02	Automated Scientific Discovery - Food (RAISE pilot) (RIA)

Expected Outcomes:
- Development of closed-loop scientific experimentation systems;
- Integrate automation with AI-driven, trustworthy decision-making processes in existing laboratory environments;
- Accelerated scientific discovery with increased efficiency and reproducibility;
- Prototypes of functional demonstrators that showcase the integration of automation with AI-driven decision-making.

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04, 15 January – 15 April, 2026

| D4: Achieving open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging enabling technologies – AI Continent		
17 mio EUR	HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01	Apply AI: Pilot of the „Science for AI" Pillar of RAISE („Resource for AI science in Europe") (RIA)

RAISE will be a virtual European institute that supports also science for AI:

- Set up a network of excellent AI labs strengthening collaboration in European AI research;
- Establish a model of cooperation among these labs and support the development of a strategic research agenda for fundamental research in AI;
- To ensure openess, the project will establish a call for expressions of interest to identify additional leading European AI research labs and individual experts;
- Work in close collaboration with other initiatives in the European AI landscape.
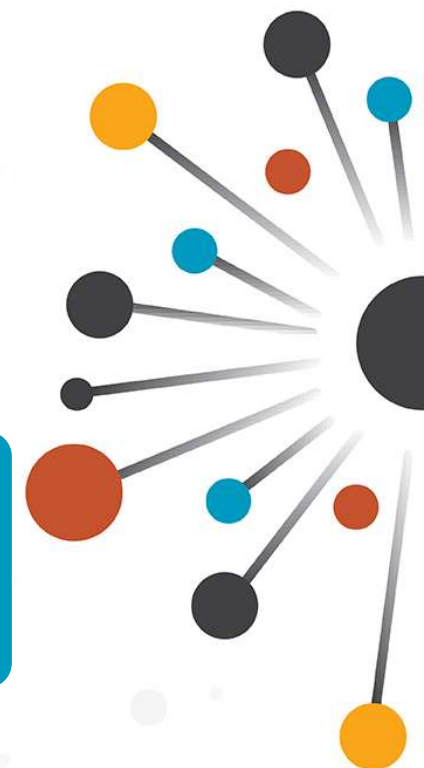
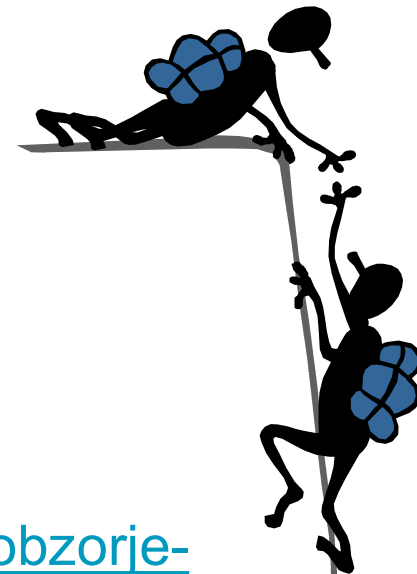# Tips for Prospective Proposers

✓ **Seek assistance from** **National Contact Points**

✓ **Check carefully** (including additional!) **admissibility and eligibility conditions**

✓ **Read carefully the topic** description („scope", „expected impact") – will your proposal match the expectations?

✓ **Fill in the proposal templates** following the instructions

✓ Fill in properly the mandatory annexes!

✓ **Address thoroughly the selection and awards criteria**

✓ Respect the **page limits**

✓ **Clearly describe what** you will achieve **and how** will you do it

✓ Choose your **consortium based on your project needs** (e.g. no duplications or partners without clear responsibilities,…)

✓ **Describe carefully the impact**

✓ **Submit (a first version) well before the deadline**

Your Support

National Contact Point, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation

➢ Your contact to European Commission and digital NCPs in other countries (IDEAL-IST network)

➢ Information events / workshops

➢ Advice to the institution or applicant

➢ Dedicated web site: https://www.gov.si/zbirke/projekti-in-programi/obzorje-evropa/globalni-izzivi-in-evropska-industrijska-konkurencnost/digitalno-podrocje-industrija-in-vesolje/

➢ E-news on digital/AI in Science – subscribe!
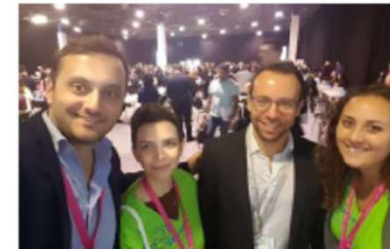
Fantastic services!

Partner match/search

Trainings, Seminars & Webinars

Brokerage events

Toolbox for proposers

IDEAL-IST
GA No 831620

IDEAL-IST

Personalised weekly notification

Topic Tree

Full proposal check
&
Project idea check

AI in Science in Slovenia

➢ Member of the ERA Action on AI in Science ⇨ supporting participation in the RAISE

➢ Member of EuroHPC ⇨ SLAIF

➢ MSCA COFUND SMASH, coordinator UNG

➢ Gravitacija:
  ➢ AI for Science, coordinator JSI
  ➢ Large Language Models for Digital Humanities, coordinator UL ⇨ The Centre for Language Resources and Technologies at the University of Ljubljana https://www.cjvt.si/en/

➢ In final stage of adoption: National strategy on AI 2030 including science for AI and AI in science
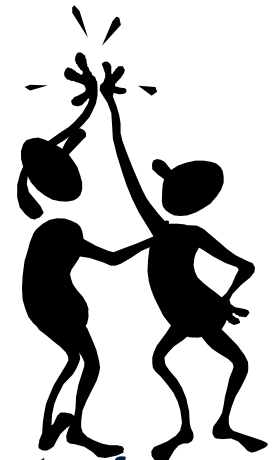
KORISTNE POVEZAVE

- MVZI in Obzorje Evropa: www.obzorje-evropa.si

- Portal za sodelujoče v Obzorju Evropa (Funding & Tenders Portal):
  https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon

- Vprašanja? Research Enquiry Service: http://ec.europa.eu/research/enquiries

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA GOSPODARSTVO, TURIZEM IN ŠPORT

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA INFRASTRUKTURO

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA VISOKO ŠOLSTVO, ZNANOST IN INOVACIJE

MREŽA NACIONALNIH KONTAKTNIH TOČK
Obzorje Evropa

SPIRIT SLOVENIJA

REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE, PODNEBJE IN ENERGIJO