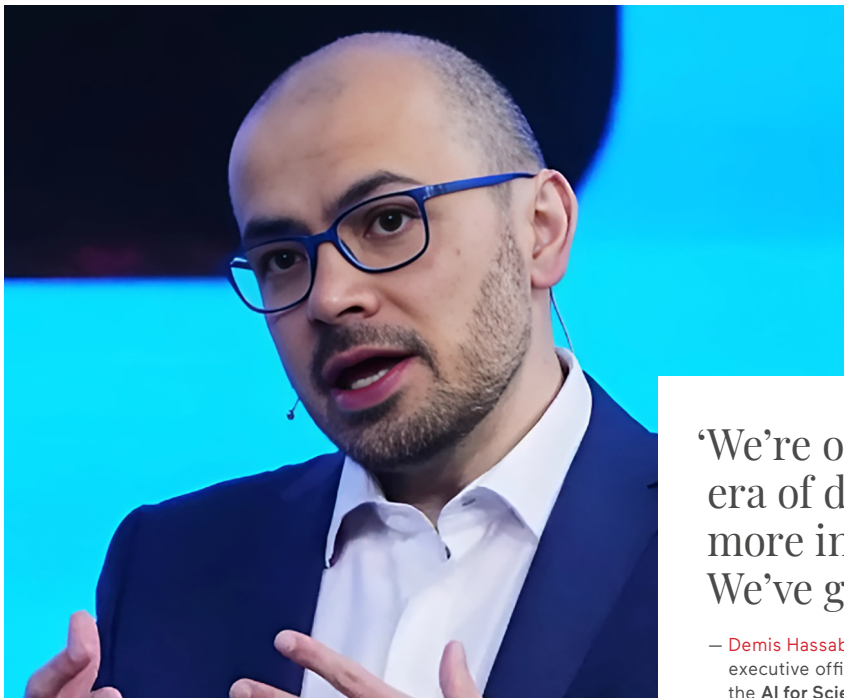


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‘We’re on the brink of a new golden era of discovery. And we need a lot more interdisciplinary science. We’ve got a lot of work ahead of us.’

— Demis Hassabis, 2024 Nobel Prize for Chemistry Laureate and chief executive officer and co-founder of Google DeepMind, speaking at the AI for Science Forum

Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Discovery: Building a Multidisciplinary Pan-European Movement



Joëlle Barral

Mario Brandenburg

Max Welling

Morten Irgens

Asmeret Asefaw Berhe

Fabian J. Theis

Bosun Tijani

The Lisbon Council is diving deep on the future of artificial intelligence, hosting high-level roundtables in Amsterdam, Berlin and Brussels and working to build interdisciplinary bridges that bring together scientists, leading European researchers, cutting-edge software engineers, regulators, ethicists and other stakeholders. The goal is to build unique new collaborations that deliver strong, powerful and ethical human good. The Lisbon Council convened [Science Salon: A Deep Dive on the Intersection of Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Discovery](#). Joëlle Barral, senior director research and engineering, Google DeepMind; Mario Brandenburg, parliamentary state secretary to the federal minister of education and research, Germany; Morten Irgens, director of innovation, Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe (CAIRNE); Max Welling, research chair in machine learning, University of Amsterdam; Theresa Züger, research

group lead, AI and Society lab, Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society and dozens of leading experts took part. Paul Hofheinz, president of the Lisbon Council, chaired [Building the Infrastructure for Success](#), a high-level panel exploring leading global initiatives to build infrastructure and develop rules and parameters to deliver scientific breakthroughs and social good with AI, at the **AI for Science Forum** in London, hosted by the Royal Society and Google DeepMind. Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, professor of soil biology, University of California; Prof Dr Dr Fabian J. Thies, director, Institute of Computational Biology, Helmholtz Zentrum Munich; and Bosun Tijani, minister of communications, innovation and digital economy, Nigeria, joined. For a fascinating overview, see [Artificial Intelligence for Scientific Discovery: Is Europe Ready for It?](#) a blog from Director of Research David Osimo and ESADE Business School Professor Jonathan Wareham.

‘We should move from closed-door education to a more open-door system. It’s very important that we work together.’

– **Giorgio Ventre**, professor at Università di Napoli Federico II and scientific director of the Apple Developer Academy in Naples, at the **High-Level Roundtable on Developing Digital Skills and Talent Hotspots**

Digital Skills: **Unlocking Talent in Hidden Hotspots**



Valeria Fascione

Dan Boyle

Giorgio Ventre

Chiara Riondino

Skills and talent are everywhere. But how do we activate them? Obviously, there is no formula that fits all comers. But could we, perhaps, learn from those who have done the most to spark local initiative, train local talent and make sure that a home region’s best and brightest don’t need to leave to develop their skills? As a contribution to

The European Week of Regions and Cities, – which brought 7000 local leaders, educators, urban developers and innovators to Brussels for high-level exchange – the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Roundtable on Developing Digital Skills and Talent Hotspots](#). Dan Boyle, lord mayor, Cork (Ireland); Valeria Fascione, regional minister for research, innovation and startups, Campania Region (Italy); Chiara Riondino, head of unit for vocational education and training, directorate-general for employment, social affairs and inclusion, European Commission; and Giorgio Ventre, professor at Università di Napoli Federico II and scientific director of the Apple Developer Academy in Naples, took part in a wide-ranging deep dive. [Watch the Digital Skills Roundtable in Full](#).

Competitiveness: **Next Moves on a Crucial Piste**



Sandro Gozi

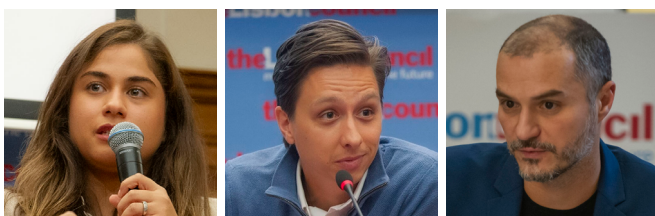
Carolina Brånby

Hugo Weber

“We now face the concrete risk that regulation alone, without necessary investments and incentives, could suffocate technological innovation,” said Sandro Gozi, secretary general of the European Democratic Party and member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe-France), at the

[High-Level Roundtable on Driving Competitiveness: Europe’s Urgent Task](#). Mr Gozi and a dozen other experts – including Carolina Brånby, director for digital policy, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise and representative of the Europe Unlocked Initiative; and Hugo Weber, vice-president for corporate affairs and impact, Mirakl (a Paris-based eCommerce company which managed €8.3 billion of third-party sales in 2023) – joined the wide-ranging discussion, which was built around new evidence on AI bottlenecks developed by Analysys Mason. Mr Gozi summed up: “We must find the right balance between appropriate regulation and growth. The digital space cannot be a lawless frontier, but neither can it become inaccessible for innovators.”

Quantum Leaps: **Getting Ready for Revolution**



Shirin Montazeri

Trond I. Andersen

Liviu Ştirbăt

What’s a “qubit?” And how will it change the world? To find out, the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Workshop on Quantum Computing: the Next Frontier](#), a high-level roundtable on quantum computers, the tasks they will (and won’t) be able to perform and how this new generation of

high-powered computing could change science and scientific computation as we know it. The conversation was driven by two very special guests – Shirin Montazeri, senior silicon designer engineer; and Trond I. Andersen, research scientist; Google Quantum AI. Taking part in the wide-ranging conversation were a host of experts and VIPs, including Peter Kerstens, adviser for technological innovation and cybersecurity, directorate-general for financial stability, financial services and capital markets union, European Commission; Jess Sansom, learning designer, Apolitical; and Liviu Ştirbăt, head of unit, industry 5.0 and AI in science, directorate general for research and innovation, European Commission.

Innovation at Work:

Multi-Country Research Delivering Results

The Lisbon Council continues its active participation in more than 25 leading cross-border research consortia on topics ranging from digital government to developing climate neutrality in leading cities. It directly leads six projects, including a 15-partner project on developing new approaches for combatting corruption (BRIDGEGAP) and an 18-partner project to improve indoor air quality and monitoring in six major European cities (EDIAQI). The aim of this work is not only to produce cutting-edge, policy-relevant outcomes. It is also to forge, build and deliver dynamic cross-border consortia, bringing the talents of organisations as diverse as Transparency International and Fraunhofer Gesellschaft together around concrete deliverables and policy roadmaps. A team of more than 30 researchers are involved in coordination on the Lisbon Council side, helping reach, build and develop projects in 14 European countries. Recent milestones include:



GovTech4All Brings Ukraine's DIIA to North Macedonia

The **GovTech4All** Consortium took on eight new partners including the Ministry of Digital Transformation of North Macedonia. The ministry will work with consortium partners and the Government of Ukraine to develop a local version of *Derzhava i Ya (Diia)*, Ukraine's cutting-edge digital government platform. The project will last two years and, if successful, could demonstrate the cross-border interoperability of this leading Ukrainian platform – and lead to better services and major cost reductions for other countries through advanced reusability. Greece, Iceland, Malta and Norway are also launching new startup challenges and interoperability trials within the project, bringing the total number of pilots to nine. The project is co-financed by the Digital Europe Programme. For more, visit <https://interoperable-europe.europa.eu/collection/govtechconnect/govtech4all>.



BRIDGEGAP Explores New Ideas in Webinar on Political Power and Hidden Networks

The **Bridging the Gaps in Evidence, Regulation and Impact of Anticorruption Policies (BRIDGEGAP)** project held a public webinar, where consortium partners presented early findings and invited suggestions on making today's panoply of transparency tools easier to use in policy-driven contexts. Among the deliverables were step-by-step walk throughs for platforms like **Follow the Money**, which traces financial flows integrating data from 292 sources, and the **T-Index**, the first-ever comprehensive measurement of legal and operational transparency. The project has an overall budget of €5.700.000, spread over four years. Final deliverables are due in 2027. The project is co-financed by the European Union Horizon Europe programme. For more, visit <https://corruptiondata.eu/bridgегap-webinar-invitation-celebrating-international-anti-corruption-day/>.



EDIAQI Takes Leading Role at International Comfort at the Extremes Conference in Seville

The 18-member **Evidence Driven Indoor Air Quality Improvement (EDIAQI)** consortium led a breakout session on "How Can We Convert Scientific Research into Effective Policies on Indoor Air Quality." For more, visit <https://ediaqi.eu/articles/science-policy-key-takeaways-ediaqi-workshop-cate-2024>.



EDDIE Publishes Roadmap for Using Energy Data to Accelerate Green Transition

Led by David Osimo, director of research at the Lisbon Council, and Anna Pizzamiglio, project manager and research associate, the 19-member **European Distributed Data Infrastructure for Energy (EDDIE)** consortium published [A Diamond in the Rough: How Energy Consumption Data Can Boost Artificial Intelligence Startups and Accelerate the Green Transition](#), a six-point roadmap for increasing data sharing to drive greater energy efficiency and transition. Work continues on the EDDIE project through 2025 and will include the introduction of a decentralised, distributed open-source data space and other tools to foster a thriving cleantech ecosystem in Europe. Visit <https://eddie.energy/>.

And that's not all. For more, visit <https://lisboncouncil.net/projects/>.

‘It is inspiring to see various players from different ecosystems around the table when we discuss such important topics. Thanks to the Lisbon Council for convening this important discussion.’

– Mieke de Regt, senior advisor for European digital and telecommunications policy, permanent representation of Belgium to the European Union

News and Outreach



Kaja Kallas

Paula Pinho

Paul Hofheinz and Chrystia Freeland

Some close friends are moving on to new challenges. First and foremost, we congratulate Kaja Kallas, former prime minister of Estonia, for appointment as high representative of the European Union for foreign and security policy and vice-president of the European Commission. Also, Paula Pinho, a frequent participant

in Lisbon Council energy transition and other initiatives, on her appointment as chief spokesperson for Ursula von der Leyen. We look forward to working with them in their new capacity. Elsewhere, Paul Hofheinz, president of the Lisbon Council, joined *Global Progress*, a high-level retreat hosted by Canada 2020 and the Center for American Progress. His visit came just ahead of political earthquakes in Canada, though he was able to meet with all key parties in the soon-to-break-out dispute, including former Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland. Elsewhere, Director of Research David Osimo visited Silicon Valley on a study visit, which included a day-long brainstorming with top think tankers at the *Meta Global Innovation and Policy Flyout* in Menlo Park, California.

Upcoming



Lucilla Sioli

Upholding Safety Standards in Artificial Intelligence: A High-Level Workshop

Lucilla Sioli, director of artificial intelligence office at the European Commission, keynotes the **High-Level Roundtable on Upholding Safety**

Standards and Delivering Safe AI, a key issue as Europe’s landmark AI act takes effect. Also joining this high-level discussion is Nikki Pope, head of the Trustworthy AI Initiative at NVIDIA Corporation.

The 2025 Digital Education Summit

Building on a decade of leadership in the digital skills debate, the Lisbon Council convenes **The 2025 Digital Education Summit**. This high-level summit will bring

together leading policymakers, innovators and education experts to evaluate the state-of-the-art achievements of the digital education action plan.



Artificial Intelligence and Copyright: What Path Forward?

As generative artificial intelligence continues to stun users with new products for creativity, questions arise about the origins and scope of the data on which the new

technology is being trained. The Lisbon Council will convene a **High-Level Roundtable on Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Copyright**, accompanying the launch of a new policy brief on this crucial topic.

www.lisboncouncil.net

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