



‘The question is not whether artificial intelligence will shape the future of science but whether Europe will lead or follow.’

— Ekaterina Zaharieva, European commissioner for startups, research and innovation at the launch of the artificial intelligence in science strategy

The New Frontier: How Artificial Intelligence Can Power Europe’s Next Scientific Revolution



Sebastian Nowozin



Magdalena Kula



Björn Juretzki



Jonathan Wareham



Ewan Birney



Agata Laydon



Max Welling

Planets have been going round the sun and apples have been falling since forever. Yet, the scientific revolution led by Copernicus and Newton would have been impossible without questioning old models and embracing new ideas. Progress is not just a change in what we know but a change in *how* we know it. This is why the Lisbon Council continues to explore how artificial intelligence (AI) can reinvent scientific discovery, unlocking new tools for ethical good. After gatherings in Berlin, Amsterdam and Rome, the Lisbon Council convened the fourth and fifth sessions of Science Salon – the flagship initiative to promote the responsible uptake of AI in science – in Brussels and Copenhagen. Experts gathered in the capital of Europe for the [High-Level Working Lunch on ‘The Acceleration of Research and Innovation: What the Rise of General-Purpose AI Scientific Tools Means for Scientists and for Europe’s Competitiveness.’](#) Sebastian Nowozin, leading machine learning researcher at Google DeepMind, opened the session with a showcase of cutting-edge advances in AI for science. He was joined by Magdalena Kula, counsellor for research, Permanent Representation of Poland to the European Union; and Björn Juretzki, head of unit, data policy

and innovation, directorate-general for communications networks, content and technology, European Commission, among others. Jonathan Wareham, senior fellow at the Lisbon Council and professor of information systems at Esade Business School, chaired [Artificial Intelligence for Scientific Discovery: Delivering the Collaborative AI Powerhouse that Europe Needs](#), a high-level breakfast on how to make science flourish in the AI age at the [AI in Science Summit 2025](#), convened under the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in Copenhagen with the Lisbon Council as partner. Ewan Birney, interim executive director, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL); Agata Laydon, portfolio lead for life sciences, Google DeepMind Impact Accelerator; and Max Welling, chief technology officer and co-founder, CuspAI and professor and research chair for machine learning, University of Amsterdam, joined the discussion. As the Summit set Copenhagen abuzz with innovative ideas, Prof Wareham moderated a panel exploring how startups can scale and attract investment, in conversation with Teresa Czerwińska, vice-president of the European Investment Bank.

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'Deployment is the name of the game. Even if Europe does not have home-grown artificial intelligence companies that can rival global competitors, there are plenty of organisations that can deploy the technology.'

— Ann Mettler, co-chair, Energy Resilience Leadership Group and former director-general, European Commission, at [Delivering the Draghi Report: How to Switch Gear](#)

Draghi Report, One Year On: From Promises to Results



Kent Walker



Ludovic Lacaine



Ann Mettler



Hugh Pullen



Luís Viegas Cardoso



Leena Whittaker

One year has passed since Europe first saw *The Future of European Competitiveness*, the landmark report from former Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi. Yet, progress is far from where it should be. While there may be no single solution, it is clear that business as usual is not one. What more is needed to implement bold, unconventional ideas and fully deliver on Mario Draghi's call for renewed competitiveness? In this spirit, the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Working Lunch on 'Delivering the Draghi Report: How](#)

[to Switch Gear'](#), an open conversation on the next big priorities for Europe's agenda. The discussion was animated by a very special guest, Kent Walker, president of global affairs at Google and Alphabet, who shared his global perspective on the technological transition

and Europe's place within it. Joining the high-level conversation were Luís Viegas Cardoso, member, European Union's competitiveness task-force, European Commission; Ludovic Lacaine, head of the Brussels office, Roche; Ann Mettler, co-chair, Energy Resilience Leadership Group and former director-general, European Commission; Hugh Pullen, vice-president and head of public affairs, region Europe, Novartis; and Leena Whittaker, director for competitiveness, EuroCommerce.

Raising Digital Natives: From Protection to Empowerment



Egelyn Braun



Andras Molnar



Martin Harris Hess



Leanda Barrington-Leach

In 1979, Pink Floyd's iconic anthem sang "Hey, teacher, leave the kids alone". Nearly half a century later, amid the growing risks children face online, the question remains: Is it an all-or-nothing choice between top-down restrictions and laissez-faire? As the European Union advances new guidelines on the protection of minors under the digital services act and prepares a technical blueprint for an

age-assurance system, the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Working Lunch on 'The Kids Are Alright: From Digital Protection to Empowerment'](#), exploring how Europe's approach to digital child safety can both protect and empower the next generation. High-level participants included Leanda Barrington-Leach, executive director, 5Rights Foundation; Egelyn Braun, member of the cabinet of Commissioner for democracy, justice, the rule of law and consumer protection Michael McGrath, European Commission; Martin Harris Hess, head of sector, protection of minors, directorate-general for communications networks, content and technology, European Commission; and Andras Molnar, senior digital policy manager and director of online safety at the Technical University of Munich Think Tank and affiliate at Harvard University's Berkman Klein Centre for Internet and Society.

Quantum Shield: Next Moves on an Unbeaten Piste



Bart Preneel



Christian D'Cunha

Quantum technologies are the next technological breakthrough after artificial intelligence, promising to optimise shipping routes, financial models, materials science, defence systems and space operations. Yet, progress will pose significant security risks for today's cryptography. With the world's largest quantum talent pool and a third of

global quantum companies, the question is no longer if Europe should act, but how. To accelerate a coordinated, cost-effective transition to quantum-secure systems, the Lisbon Council convened the [High-Level Roundtable on Europe's Quantum Shield: Securing Tomorrow, Today](#). Bart Preneel, full professor, computer security and industrial cryptography group (COSIC), KU Leuven opened the discussion. Christian D'Cunha, head of unit, cyber coordination task force, directorate-general for communications networks, content and technology, European Commission, joined.

Local Action, Global Vision: A Collaborative Innovation Model

The Lisbon Council continues its active participation in more than 25 leading research consortia on topics ranging from digital government to crisis management. The goal is not only to produce cutting-edge, policy-relevant outcomes. It is to forge collaborations, bringing talents from across borders together. A team of more than 30 researchers is involved, helping reach, build and develop projects in 14 European countries.

Recent milestones include:

Turning the Page: Co-Creating People-First European Libraries



Emma Rafowicz

To mark its conclusion, the LibrarIN project convened [Next Generation Libraries: Bottom-Up, People-First and Purpose-Driven](https://lisboncouncil.net/newsandevents/turning-the-page-co-creating-people-first-european-libraries/), a policy roundtable on what it takes to unlock the full potential of libraries as catalysts of democracy, competitiveness, societal resilience and innovation. Among others, Emma Rafowicz, member of the European Parliament (Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats - France) and vice-chair of the committee on culture and education; and Georg Häusler, director for culture, creativity and sport, directorate general for education, youth, sport and culture, European Commission, joined the discussion by sharing their visions on new participatory management models for libraries across Europe. For more, visit <https://lisboncouncil.net/newsandevents/turning-the-page-co-creating-people-first-european-libraries/>.

Delivering Interoperability: Govtech4all Scales Up Public Private Collaboration



With interoperability in focus, the 2025 SEMIC conference, convened by the European Commission in partnership with the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, showcased success stories of public-private collaboration in delivering public services. As a collaborator of the conference, the Govtech4all Consortium convened a [High-Level Dinner on 'Govtech-as-a-service,'](https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/eugovtech/govtech4all) spotlighting the power of scalable models that help administrations engage startups and innovators to deliver user-centric digital solutions. Georges Lobo, programme manager, directorate-general for digital services, European Commission; Kjartan Björnsson, head of unit, governance and public administration, reform and investment task force, European Commission; and Lene Krogh Jeppesen, innovation partner, Denmark National Centre for Public-Private Sector Innovation, joined. For more, visit <https://interoperable-europe.ec.europa.eu/collection/eugovtech/govtech4all>.

Innovating Against Disinformation: Lessons from FERMI



Every day, millions of citizens turn to the internet in search of information. Yet what they encounter online can be distorted by disinformation techniques and manipulation. What do disinformation threats look like today? And what role can technology-driven solutions play in strengthening European resilience? Over the past three years, these questions have been at the core of the Fake News Risk Mitigator (FERMI) project. The initiative has developed and tested innovative, data-driven tools to strengthen citizens' resilience and support Europe's counter-disinformation efforts. For more, visit <https://fighting-fake-news.eu/>.

The OpenVerse Initiative Publishes Roadmap For Virtual Worlds



The Open and Co-Created Virtual Worlds for Europe (OpenVerse) initiative has published two policy briefs outlining a roadmap for Europe's transition to virtual worlds. The first publication - [Regulatory Sandboxes for Virtual Worlds Innovation: A Framework for EU Leadership](https://openverse.eu/) - proposes a pan-European "28th Regime" to enable responsible, cross-border experimentation. The second - [Trust Tools for Immersive Technologies](https://openverse.eu/) - introduces a trust-by-design architecture and tools to ensure transparency, accountability and privacy-preserving digital identity in virtual environments. The 12-partner project is co-financed by the European Union through the Horizon Europe programme and by the Swiss Confederation. For more, visit <https://openverse.eu/>.

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

‘Great to be part of the conversation with the Lisbon Council, a European think tank which thinks big and thinks European around artificial intelligence.’

— [Ewan Birney](#), interim executive director, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, at the [Artificial Intelligence for Scientific Discovery: Delivering the Collaborative AI Powerhouse that Europe Needs](#)

News and Outreach



Katarzyna Szkuta



Jeff Risom



Caroline De Cock

As European values and competitiveness face unprecedented threats, the Lisbon Council continued to grow its team, adding new talent and expertise. **Dr Katarzyna Szkuta** joined as director of strategy, taking the lead on Brussels-based policy work and community-building activities. **Jeff Risom** and **Caroline De Cock** also joined as senior fellows, helping advance the work of the

Lisbon Council on urban design and intellectual property rights. Marking the start of her new role, Dr Katarzyna Szkuta joined ‘Priorities for Closing Europe’s Innovation Gap: Scaling AI-driven businesses for competitive advantage,’ a private roundtable convened by the Financial Times on the potential of AI technologies and Europe’s next steps to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to harness them responsibly. The roundtable featured contributions from high-level speakers, including Giorgos Ioannides, deputy Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the European Union; Michael McNamara, member of the European Parliament (Renew Europe – Ireland); Małgorzata Nikowska, head of unit, AI innovation and policy coordination, European Commission; and Debbie Weinstein, president, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, Google.

Upcoming

Designing the Sustainable Cities of the Future

Cities are Europe’s engines of change where policies turn into homes and innovation becomes infrastructure. For hubs across Europe to continue to unlock their imagination capital, the Lisbon Council is convening the **Sustainable Cities Summit ‘From Design to Delivery: Scaling Europe’s Green and Just Transition,’** a high-level gathering in early 2026 for visionary leaders shaping Europe’s next urban

transformation. Robert Habeck, visiting fellow at Perry House, University of Pennsylvania, and former vice chancellor and federal minister for economic affairs and climate action, Germany; and Belinda Tato, professor at Harvard Graduate School of Design and co-founder of Ecosistema Urbano (Madrid, Spain), will join to show how social cohesion, creativity and design can power urban climate adaptation and inclusion.

Sovereignty Through Excellence: A New Path for Europe’s Digital Public Infrastructure

How can Europe truly achieve digital sovereignty? Beatriz Vasconcellos, deputy secretary for digital transformation at the Ministry of Management and Innovation in Public Services of Brazil, will lead a deep dive into global best practices at the **High-Level Roundtable on ‘Sovereignty through Excellence: A New Path for Europe’s Digital Public Infrastructure,’**

the Lisbon Council will convene in 2026. The high-level roundtable will also tap into a series of new pilots by the Govtech4all Initiative to be rolled out over the next two years. These pilots are designed to accelerate digital transformation in the public sector, including through an AI sandbox, smarter procurement and a public service marketplace.

Data Meets Energy: A New Power Couple

Within the framework of the European Distributed Data Infrastructure for Energy (EDDIE) – an 18-partner consortium co-financed by the European Union – the Lisbon Council will publish *‘Better Protection, Less Reporting Burden,’* a

policy brief making the case for simpler, smarter energy data rules. Next will come *‘Power to the People: Data-Driven Energy Communities,’* a publication exploring how access to consumption data can drive social impact and sustainability.

www.lisboncouncil.net

The Lisbon Council for Economic
Competitiveness and Social Renewal asbl
IPC-Résidence Palace
155 rue de la Loi
1040 Brussels, Belgium
info@lisboncouncil.net



bsky.app/profile/thelisboncouncil.bsky.social



@lisboncouncil@eupolicy.social



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