



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the auspices
of UNESCO
- Information from the Slovenian delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Slovenian delegation on the above subject, which has been put on the agenda under 'Any other business' for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 8 November 2019.

International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO

Slovenia would like to draw attention of delegations to its proposal to establish the Centre on AI under the auspices of UNESCO. The final decision to set up the Centre will be taken at the UNESCO General Conference in November 2019 and at that occasion Slovenia would highly value support of EU Member States for its proposal.

Background information

Following the success of the 2nd World Congress on Open Educational Resources, hosted by Slovenia in September 2017, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia in May 2018 adopted a proposal to establish an International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) under the auspices of UNESCO.

In November 2018, the UNESCO leadership responded positively to the initiative, and called for a more detailed proposal for the establishment of the Centre which was subsequently approved by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 206th meeting in Paris in April 2019. In order to finalise and formalise the procedure, the final confirmation will take place at UNESCO General Conference in November 2019.

IRCAI will be created by transferring the Centre for Knowledge Transfer in Information Technologies into International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO at the Jožef Stefan Institute (JSI) in Slovenia, Ljubljana.

The aim of the Centre is to provide open and transparent environment not only to research and discussions on AI, but also to provide all stakeholders across the globe the support, guidelines and action plans to deal with AI related issues.

IRCAI will advise governments, organisations, legal entities and general public on systemic and strategic issues when implementing AI in various domains. It will help develop and spread capacities by various means, including by assistance in setting up complementary research centres across the globe, global awareness and training programs, research and knowledge and capacity exchange network.

IRCAI will create an AI research agenda and technology roadmap, and a series of AI deployment scenarios in specific contexts. The key research direction is combining legal, social and economic sciences with AI research methods and techniques from machine learning to deep semantic and reasoning used in numerous complex systems domains.

IRCAI will seek to inform about an educational approach to AI to respond to the fast-approaching impact of AI across all sectors and fields, including its own. IRCAI will, above all, carefully analyse the most central ethical issues regarding AI and its implications for culture and cultural diversity, education, scientific knowledge, and communication.
