

INNOVATION & COMMERCIALIZATION WORKING GROUP REPORT GPAI – MONTREAL SUMMIT 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Working Group on Innovation & Commercialization (WG I&C) of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), 30 experts with varied backgrounds and expertise from 15 countries collaborate to study and recommend practical tools, methods and actions that enable private actors and research organizations to drive international collaboration on AI innovation, to develop R&D outputs into products and processes, and to exploit these results for commercialization and widespread adoption

This group is chaired by Françoise Soulié-Fogelman, Scientific Advisor of Hub FranceIA; and Jean-François Gagné, founder and CEO of ElementAI. Both have been members of the European Commission’s High-Level Expert Group on AI.

Objective of this report: this report is the first deliverable of the Innovation & Commercialization working group. It results from the work of three sub-groups which were assembled during the summer of 2020. In such a short time, the sub-groups exploited the rich knowledge provided by the experts in the groups. However, they have by no means exhausted their topics: this report should thus be viewed more as setting the stage for our future work.

The goal of the Innovation & Commercialization working group is to make recommendations for supporting innovation, commercialization, and adoption of AI by industry. We take as our foundation the humane values that the GPAI stands for, aiming at “ethical by design” development of industrial and commercial AI systems. We also take into account the diversity of GPAI members and attempt to find recommendations which may apply in all the countries of the GPAI, possibly in different ways and at different paces, but following the same guiding principles.

Presentation of the sections of the report: this document reports the findings of these 3 sub-groups.

- Sub-group 1: new business models. AI technologies have improved to the point where they are now widely penetrating into a wide array of organizations, including industry and government. As usual, business model innovation is necessary in order to benefit from technological innovation: so, AI is in the process of inventing new business models, which will be increasingly important to reap the value from the commercialization of AI products.
- Sub-group 2: private sector. We investigate the challenges that the private sector faces to innovate in AI and commercialize its products, and the solutions that can be put in place to address these challenges. We then present examples of private sector initiatives.
- Subgroup 3: public sector. We investigate the major challenges/principles governments are facing and solutions that can be provided as well as solutions that should not be applied. We show initiatives in different countries to illustrate the different points discussed. Given that

AI will impact the lives of every citizen, the solutions deployed by government are particularly important.

An additional sub-group focusing on Intellectual Property protection for AI was also assembled and started working; its first deliverable will be addressed in the medium term in 2021.

In this report we have tried to list the goals and challenges which need to be addressed but we have not yet detailed the methods and solutions precisely enough. In the medium term, we will strive to identify ways to develop access to AI for all, to make sure competition is fair to all stakeholders and that the particular challenges faced by SMEs are properly addressed, taking into account the different geographies and their constraints.

Various important topics have been barely touched upon and will be further investigated in the next stages; these include the ongoing debate on the potential existence/impact of data or talent monopolies.

Disclaimer: While we have tried to make this a consensus document, not everyone necessarily agreed with every statement or recommendation.