

European Commission

Natural Language Processing

NLP Study

DIGIT.D2 - Interoperability.



April 2022

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Webinar Practicalities

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Click on <<Connect audio>> but please mute your microphones

You can share your questions and comments via the chat

European Commission



The webinar will be recorded



Welcome

Conductor:

Miguel Alvarez Rodriguez – Policy Officer, expert on European Interoperability
Framework and supervisor of the NLP study

Facilitator:

- Zsòfia Dudàs – Independent advisor

Speakers:

- 1. Louis Matha, Nathan Ghesquiere and Emidio Stani Authors of the NLP study
- 2. Luca TANGI Project Officer at Joint Research Centre
- Cecile GUASCH Consultant for the European Commission- Information Systems Architect & Vidas Daudaravicius - Scientific Project Officer at European Commission Joint Research Centre
- 4. Emmanouil MARAGKOUDAKIS Project owner at DG DIGIT
- 5. Georgi GITCHEV Lawyer at DG CNECT

The catalogue of Service Action



The Catalogue of Services Action supports **public administrations** in building their **digital catalogues of public services**, to allow citizens, businesses and public administrations across Europe to access and understand the information they need.







Help you create your catalogue of services





Advise you in adopting standards and technologies Exchange knowledge





Assignments part of this project



CPSV-AP



Controlled vocabularies



Tools for mapping



Studies and reports



Supporting activities to SDG policies

Knowledge sharing and community building



Courses



Natural Language Processing (NLP)

"the machine's ability to identify, process, understand and/or generate information in written and spoken human communications"



Goals of this webinar



Provide knowledge on NLP applied to the Public Sector

$\stackrel{\circ}{\mathbb{C}}$

Give hands-on experience to implement NLP projects



Present the necessary regulatory compliance about NLP





NLP Study

Presentation of the NLP Study

Catalogue of Services

Application areas for NLP

• In the public sector, NLP can be used for various different purposes





Application areas for NLP

Content categorization

Content categorization is a fundamental application area of text classification algorithms.

Content categorization

Example: Case classification to remove guesswork in populating case fields



Topic discovery and modelling

Topic modelling is the process of automatically identifying topics present in a corpus of texts and to derive hidden patterns present in this corpus.

Example: Tracking geographical locations using a geo-aware topic model for analysing social media data

Topic discovery and modelling

Semantic text matching

Semantic text matching is the task of estimating the similarity between the source and the target text pieces

Example: Link e-government services between each other

Semantic text matching





Application areas for NLP

04 Sentiment analysis

Comparable to content categorization models, sentiment analysis (SA) applications are also based on text classification.



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Automatic speech recognition

Automatic speech recognition (ASR) is the application of NLP which converts spoken words into computer texts.



Example: Tracking of internal social network to interpret employee sentiment



Sentiment analysis

Example: Speech recognition to improve productivity of the police



06 Document summarisation



Example: Enhancement of Public Services in Meadville using text summarisation

Document

summarization

nt of Public Exa

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Machine translation

Machine translation (MT) is an application area that uses NLP to translate text from one language to another

Example: The website of the Fairfax County Public Schools



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Structure of the NLP Project -Overview









Structure of NLP project



language models:

Pre-trained

To-be-trained

European Commission

Once the data sources has been identified, it can be collected to a target database

The cleaning process remove all the insignificant words and characters not needed when training an NLP model

Structure of NLP project

05 Deploy the NLP application

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Serverless

The serverless architecture is the simplest deployment option. However, it can lead to a higher latency.



Container platforms

Container platforms need expertise to work with them but they offer the most flexibility: they can be deployed either onpremise or in the cloud.



Maintain the model



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Time-based

This approach aims at retraining the model at regular intervals. It requires a good understanding of how the data changes over time.

Threshold-based

This approach prefers to retrain the model when it is needed based on key performance indicator (accuracy, bias ..).





NLP study Q&A

Benefits of NLP

How can the public sector benefit from the use of NLP?

Agenda

- Brief JRC presentation
- Our projects on AI in the public sector
- Results: landscaping overview
- NLP overview
- Some NLP examples

Brief JRC presentation



JRC Mission

As the science and knowledge service of the European Commission our mission is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.

JRC sites

- Headquarters in **Brussels** and research facilities located in **5 Member States:**
- Belgium (Geel)
- Germany (Karlsruhe)
- Italy (Ispra)
- The Netherlands (Petten)
- Spain (Seville)



JRC research

- Fully policy-relevant and world class knowledge production
- Priorities driven knowledge and competence management
- One JRC anticipating emerging issues, understanding complexities and bridging silos
- Addressing challenges of research (information deluge, multidisciplinarity, integrity, reproducibility)

Our projects on AI in the public sector

AI Watch – the Knowledge Service to monitor the Development, Uptake and Impact of AI for Europe



https://ec.europa.eu/knowledge4policy/ai-watch_en

Innovative Public Services



Innovative Public Services Observatory

Abstract: The Innovative Public Sevices Observatory (IPSO) is a platform jointly created by DIGIT and JRC in the framework of the IPS Action of the EU ISA² Programme, with the purpose of monitoring the adoption and use across Europe of emerging and disruptive technologies - as AI, DLT, IoT, APIs - for the provision of public services. This collection includes the data produced by the observatory.

Authors: PEREGO Andrea; ULRICH Peter; DALLA BENETTA Alessandro

Citation: Perego, A., Ulrich, P. and Dalla Benetta, A., Innovative Public Services Observatory, European Commission, 2020, JRC120247.

Publisher: European Commission

Results: landscaping overview

Road to the adoption of AI by the public sector



JRC SCIENCE FOR POLICY REPORT

Al Watch Road to the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence by the Public Sector

> A Handbook for Policymakers, Public Administrations and Relevant Stakeholders





16 Recommendations

Road to the adoption of AI by the public sector

Area 1 Promote an EU-value oriented, inclusive and human-centric AI in the public sector

- **1.1** Harmonise and complement EU regulations to promote fair, non-discriminatory and transparent AI-enabled public services for all citizens.
- **1.2** Promote the adoption of ethical principles the development of guidelines and the development of mitigating measures to minimize the risks of deployment of AI by the public sector.
- **1.3** Develop and promote dedicated AI-enabled solutions based on co-creation approaches to increase citizens' and businesses' relevance and confidence in the use of AI by the public sector.

Area 2 Enhance coordinated governance, convergence of regulations and capacity building

- 2.1 Create an EU-wide network of governance bodies for AI in the public sector.
- 2.2 Design national and European, capacity-building programs for public sector innovators aiming to adopt AI in support to the digital transformation of public services.
- 2.3 Build upon and promote the use of regulatory sandboxes for public administrations, allowing experimentation of AI-enabled solutions in controlled environments.
- 2.4 Optimise funding in support to AI in the public sector to promote the spreading and scaling of reusable solutions.
- 2.5 Promote the development of multilingual guidelines, criteria, and tools for public procurement of AI solutions in the public sector throughout Europe.

Area 3 Build a shared and interactive Al digital ecosystem		in	Applying v Ipact asses
3.1	Support multidisciplinary research and knowledge creation amongst European universities and R&D institutions around AI for the Public Sector. Build a common European Data Space	4.1	Set up and a pan-Euroj observatori collectively experiences stakeholder
5.2	for public sector bodies and their operators, drawing from the compilation of relevant AI datasets throughout Europe.	4.2	throughout Develop an assessment
3.3	Reinforce and advance existing initiatives on open data and interoperability.		influencing impact and public secto

- **3.4** Share reusable and interoperable Al components at all operational levels of European public administrations.
- **3.5** Create a European marketplace for GovTech solutions in support to public sector digital transformation.

Area 4 Applying value oriented Al impact assessment frameworks

- **4.1** Set up and observatory on AI, built on a pan-European network of AI national observatories to gather, share and collectively manage best practices and experiences learned from different stakeholders in the Public Sector throughout Europe.
- **4.2** Develop and apply umbrella impact assessment frameworks based on key influencing factors to measure the impact and related use of AI in the public sector.
- **4.3** Support Green AI in the public sector in compliance with environmental sustainability principles, and promote civic engagement to that end.

Mapping AI use in public services in the EU

Science for policy report

Misuraca, G., and van Noordt, C.., Overview of the use and impact of AI in public services in the EU, EUR 30255 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-19540-5, doi:10.2760/039619, JRC120399



230 Cases



Available at the JRC Data Catalogue, AI Watch collection, "selected AI cases in the public sector"



Ongoing activity - AI Case Collection

686 AI Cases collected and validated

How we collect cases?

- Country repositories or research studies
- News articles
- Responses to our AI Survey



n.b. the cases are not statistically representative. No comparison can be done among the different countries

Published cases: Joint Research Centre Data Catalogue - Selected AI cases in the public sector - European Commission (europa.eu)

AI Cases by Technology



NLP cases in PS

Some data

NLP Cases by Status



NLP Cases by Status



— Overall average

NLP Cases by Geographical Extent


NLP Cases by Geographical Extent



— Overall average

NLP cases by COFOG I



NLP cases by COFOG I



NLP cases by AI Keywords



NLP cases in PS

Some examples





_ done by the Register of Enterprises of Latvia

_ is able to answer about information on businesses (registration, liquidation, etc.)

_ if citizens have an application in progress, it is able to answer on the progress of the documents

_according to the first performance indicators, 44% of the questions asked on UNA are easily answered by the Chatbot



Classification of phone calls

_ NLP is used to automatically classify incoming phone calls at the Flemish Infoline

_ it detects and categorizes the incoming questions faster and more 'finely-meshed', it integrates them into the editorial management

_ it also suggests standardised answer to the operator



HAL - classification of documents

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) receives up to
6,000 reports from Norwegian embassies, delegations,
etc.

_ it analyses and classifies reports the content of these documents and to find almost all relevant information on a given subject matter

_ the <u>AI solution</u> is also used to extract key information in reports and prepare summaries.





VeriPol - Detect false police reports

<u>VeriPol</u> use a combination of NLP and ML classification algorithms, capable of estimating the probability of false police reports with significant accuracy

_ it also enables insights into the differences between false and true police reports

_ the system is integrated into the existing Spanish National Police information system

Thank you

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Benefits of NLP

Q&A

DEMO - NLP

How can the public sector use NLP?

Context

How to improve public services accessibility while saving time using Natural Language Processing?



The Single Digital Gateway

A repository of links has been created to foster the accessibility of public services

The Goals

European Commission

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- Improve the ranking of the web pages describing public services
- Reduce the time needed for sharing required information

NLP Prototype for the Single Digital Gateway

Multiple text classification techniques allow automatic retrieval of metatags based on the URL or the content of the page





Webpages that need to be tagged according to the SDG Search Service model.

Automatically enrich webpages in the HTML code



Benefits for users



Automation of previously manual work



The prototype can be scaled up easily



In the context of the SDG requirement for local authorities to provide SDG information by the end of 2022, this prototype could relief a great amount of manual work



Demonstration of POC

Demonstration of SeTA tool (Demo)



NLP Demos

Q&A

DEAP Project

What can we learn from the DEAP project? – A successful NLP Initiative

Who we are

- Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sports and Culture (DG EAC)
- Directorate C. Innovation, Digital Education and International Cooperation
- Unit C4. Digital Education
- Portfolio of Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

- Directorate General for Informatics (DIGIT)
- Directorate D. Digital Services
- Unit D1. Data Services
- Portfolio of Commissioner Johannes Hahn





Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027



Strategic priority 1

Fostering the development of a highperforming digital education ecosystem

Strategic priority 2

Enhancing digital skills and competences for the digital transformation



Stronger coordination and cooperation through the European Digital Education Hub

High quality and inclusive digital education

Digital Education Action Plan 2018-2020

Priority 1

Making better use of digital technology for teaching and learning

Priority 2

Developing relevant digital competences and skills for the digital transformation

Priority 3

Improving education through better data analysis and foresight Action 10: Artificial Intelligence and Analytics Pilots

Digital Education Action Plan

The Commission has adopted a Digital Education Action Plan (<u>DEAP</u>) which includes 11 actions to support technologyuse and digital competence development in education.

Action 10 is about AI and educational analytics.

In simpler words, "how can we make the best use of the data available online to capture insights and improve decision-making in education"?.



Digital Education Action Plan

Use data and AI to predict future skills and skills shortages to demonstrate the added value of analytics for the definition of education policies.



The Challenge

- Data is vital for education and training. Using technology, we have created data that can be exploited. But how?
- Data also helps to identify and address needs for evidence-based required policy measures, but comparative data especially is rarely used.
- Education data and trends are generally collected in a top-down way, led by international organisations and governments. The user's perspective is often not sufficiently considered.
- Foresight: from lagging behind to anticipating change. Education and training institutions are trying to **catch up** with technological developments.

Early developments

DIGIT

DG EAC	Pilots to study possible applications of AI in education. Two prototypes developed:
+	PoC 1: Skills Man Panorama

- PoC 1: Skills Map Panorama
- PoC 2: Impact of AI on Sectors Curriculum generator •

EAC-DIGIT AI pilots

Context: DG EAC started cooperating with DG DIGIT in 2019 to identify possible pilot projects using AI and analytics in education. Within six months, **two Proofs-of-Concept (PoCs**) have been identified and developed.

From PoC to Project: The two PoCs were implemented as prototypes and represent a good input for reflections on the impact of AI on educational analytics and on how a smart use of the data can support education design and policymaking.

DG EAC is carrying out a project of development of the two PoCs to transform them in mature services, potentially supporting education institutions interested in improving their educational programmes (*Go-Live by June 2022*).

The services will be made available online, use the infrastructure of the European Commission Data Platform and be open for use through the internet without any restriction.

EAC-DIGIT AI pilots

Skills Map Panorama

Connecting educational programs to jobs and vice versa

Summary:

• How AI and Natural Language Processing help policy makers or DG EAC to visually inspect the levels of similarities of various MSc programs across EU member states to occupations

Why is it important?

• DEAP Action 10 is about AI and educational analytics. In simpler words, "how can we make the best use of the data available online to capture insights and improve decision-making in education"?

EAC-DIGIT AI pilots

Impact of AI on Sectors – Curriculum generator

• Finding the most relevant AI topics in professional sectors

Summary:

 How AI can help identifying which topics of IT are emerging in various professional sectors. Educational stakeholders such as University managers, policy makers, etc. can select a set of professional sectors, provided by the <u>NACE</u> classification, and visualize which AI-topics are emerging, based on the top-ranked research communities for these sectors.

Why is it important?

Education is a concept of high volatility, new technologies, methods and ideas are emerging.
Educational domain experts can use AI to modernize traditional sectors by introducing new courses that can help them boost their educational impact.

The Skills Map Panorama PoC has been transformed to:

Service 1: The skills & education matchmaking tool

User Story "As an employee from HEI, I would like to access data and analytics that help me understand (overall activity) the relation between education programmes and real-world skills and occupations, so that I can compare what we are teaching to students to what is required on the job market, and therefore model my curriculum accordingly".

The *Impact of AI on Sectors* PoC has been transformed to:

Service 2: Technology watch for education

User Story
(overall activity)
"As an employee from HEI, I would like to access to macro level data, in order to understand
what AI is, how AI technologies are evolving and to compare this data to my own curriculum,
so that I can review and adjust the content of it accordingly".

EAC-DIGIT: the AI4Educat Project Service 1: The skills & education matchmaking tool



Country

Lithuania 🛞

Service 2: Technology watch for education



principle component analysis text mining

Data Sources

Category	Amazon RDS	Amazon S3
Education Data	45GB ²	4GB
Publications	200MB (for 5 years)	N/A
ESCO Dataset	100MB	700MB
Trained ML Models (Architectural Decision AD-001)	N/A	Up to 2GB
Total	45.3GB	6.7GB

Architectural NLP Decisions

- Use Sentence-BERT for producing Embeddings for textual content
- Use Spark NLP for the pre-processing task of cleaning text and lemmatization
- Use ESCO Dataset as basis to construct a Training Dataset for text classification
- Use CSO Classifier to classify Courses and Publications to AI Technologies
- Use LightGBM as Classifier to identify the relevant pairs of Courses and Skills
- Host AI4EDUCAT in AWS Cloud Environments of DIGIT
- Use Amazon EMR as big data platform
- Use GitLab as CI/CD tool
- Use Amazon ECS and Docker for deploying the Spring Boot application

High-Level Context and Component Diagram



Name	Description
AI4EDUCAT Management System (AI4EDUCAT-MS)	Web Application front-end based on eUI that allows HEI Employees to provide curriculum data and System Administrators to manage the system in general
AI4EDUCAT Public Portal (AI4EDUCAT-PP)	Web Application front-end based on eUI that allows Public Users to explore and analyse curriculum data in various ways
AI4EDUCAT Back-End (AI4EDUCAT-BE)	Web Application back-end that allow both Web Application front-ends to integrate with corporate building blocks and to interact with AI4EDUCAT specific data; it allows also to HEI systems to provide curriculum data, as well as, retrieves data from external sources, like Publications
AI4EDUCAT Artificial Intelligence (AI4EDUCAT-AI)	Set of NLP/ML algorithms for all needed Al Processing, like calculating Embeddings for Courses and Programmes, calculating similarities between Courses and Skills, computing Al Technologies for Courses and Publications, etc.



Generic Overall Pipeline Structure







DEAP project

Q&A


Mural: Time for some interactions!

Regulatory Compliance

How can public administrations comply with regulatory requirements



EXCELLENCE & TRUST 2021 Artificial Intelligence Package

Georgi Gitchev, Legal and Policy Assistant, Unit A2, DG CONNECT, European Commission

Knowledge Sharing Session: Natural Language Processing for Public Services

28 April 2022

2021 European Commission AI Package: Proposal for an Artificial Intelligence Act

- Introduction: AI Act Logic and Rational
- Main elements and principles:
 - $\circ~$ scope of application
 - horizontal risk-based approach
 - \circ main requirements
 - implications for NLP systems
- State of play and next steps
- Other relevant legislation





Al is good ...

- For citizens
- For business
- For the public interest



... but creates some risks

- For the safety of consumers and users
- For fundamental rights





- Unified and Consistent in core choices
- Taking into account sector specificities in implementing such choices



Regulation applicable to:

Excluded from the scope:

- Providers (public or private) placing on the market or putting into service AI systems in the Union independent from their origin
- Users (public or private) located within the Union
- Providers and users located in a third country, where the output produced by the system is used in the Union
- Public authorities in a third country or international organisations who use Al systems in the framework of international agreements for law enforcement and judicial cooperation with the Union or with one or more Member States
- AI developed or used exclusively for military purposes
- National security also out of scope

"Al system" definition: Article 3(1) + Annex I



Unacceptable risk

e.g. social scoring, real time RBI for law enforcement purposes

High risk

e.g. recruitment, social benefits, law enforcement

'Transparency' risk

'e.g. **chatbots**, emotion recognition, biometric categorisation)

Minimal or no risk

Prohibited

Permitted subject to compliance with AI requirements and ex-ante conformity assessment

Permitted but subject to information/transparency obligations

Permitted with no restrictions Possible voluntary codes of conduct



*Not mutually exclusive

High-risk AI Systems



SAFETY COMPONENTS OF REGULATED PRODUCTS

(e.g. medical devices, machinery) which are subject to third-party assessment under the relevant sectorial legislation



CERTAIN (STAND-ALONE) AI SYSTEMS IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS

- Biometric identification and categorisation of natural persons
- Management and operation of critical infrastructure
- Education and vocational training
- Employment and workers management, access to self-employment

- Access to and enjoyment of essential private services and public services and benefits
- Law enforcement
- Migration, asylum and border control management
- Administration of justice and democratic processes



- NLP is a form of AI that gives systems the ability to identify, process, understand and/or generate information in written and spoken human communications (Commission study on Natural Language Processing for Public Services).
- Consider the purpose of the NLP application
- If intended to be used in a high-risk use case (e.g. Annex III, point 6 (d)), it will be classified as a high-risk AI system

BUT

- The user who uses or further develops the NLP system for a high-risk intended purpose will be considered as a "provider" of a high-risk AI system
- Responsible for compliance with the AI Act requirements



NB: This is according to the proposal as it currently stands and subject to changes!

Requirements for high-risk Al systems Use high-quality training, validation and testing data processes implement Establish documentation and design logging features management Ensure **transparency** and provide and users with information Establish Ensure human oversight risk Ensure robustness, accuracy and cybersecurity

(incl. public bodies developing in-house) **Provider obligations** house or bought off User obligations (Al developed in-

shelf)

the

Obligations for high risks AI Systems

- Undergo conformity assessment (self assessment for Annex III except for RBI systems) and potentially re-assessment of the system (in case of significant modifications) to demonstrate compliance with AI requirements
- ▶ Establish and Implement quality management system in its organisation
- Draw-up and keep up-to-date technical documentation
- Keep logs to monitor the operation of the high-risk AI system (when empowered by law or the user)
- ► Register stand-alone AI system in public EU database
- ► Affix CE marking and sign declaration of conformity
- Conduct post-market monitoring and take corrective action
- ▶ **Report serious incidents and malfunction** that can pose risks to fundamental rights
- Collaborate with market surveillance authorities
- Operate AI system in accordance with instructions of use
- Ensure human oversight when using AI system (for public authorities essential)
- Monitor operation for possible risks
- > Inform the provider or distributor about any serious incident or any malfunctioning
- Use the information given by the provider for the data protection impact assessment (where applicable)
- **Existing legal obligations** for users continue to apply (e.g. under GDPR, public administrative law)

HIGHREST

CE marking is an indication that a product complies with the requirements of a relevant Union legislation regulating the product in question. In order to affix a CE marking to a high-risk AI system, a provider shall undertake **the following steps:**





New transparency obligations for certain AI systems (Art. 52)

- Notify humans that they are interacting with an AI system unless this is evident.
- Applicable to chat bots, among others.

Possible voluntary codes of conduct for non-high-risk AI (Art. 69)

Commission and Board to encourage drawing up of codes of conduct intended to foster the voluntary application of requirements to non-high-risk AI systems.





*Not foreseen in the regulation but the Commission intends to introduce it in the implementation process.



Council

- Completed full detailed presentation of the proposal by the Commission with Q&A by Member States and proposed a first set of amendments.
- The FR Presidency aims to complete a full reading of the proposal, and possibly a partial general approach.
- Timeline TBC

Parliament

- Joint competence of IMCO & LIBE committees: draft report from 20 April.
- In addition, five other committees have partial competence on different parts of the file: JURI, ITRE, CULT, ENVI & TRAN.
- IMCO & LIBE vote scheduled for October, plenary vote in November.
- > Once adopted: 2 years of transitional period before the Al Act becomes directly applicable across the EU.

Some relevant issues under discussion:

- General-purpose AI systems and implications for NLP systems
- List of high-risk AI systems extended?
- More substantial obligations for public authorities?
- Enforcement mechanism: role of the Commission?



General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679:

- To the extent that personal data is being processed for training and testing the NLP system, or if the NLP system processes personal data while being used.
- Sectorial legislation applicable to the concrete activity, when used within regulated sectors.

Intellectual Property law :

- E.g. Directive (EU) 2016/943 on trade secrets, Directive 2009/24/EC on the legal protection of computer programs
- > **Digital Services Act** (when adopted):
 - If NLP systems are used for content moderation







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Thank you!



Regulatory compliance

Q&A

Conclusion



Upcoming activities









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