

# Summary

Artificial intelligence (AI) is radically changing the world. AI will make a substantial contribution to economic growth, prosperity and well-being of the Netherlands. It will also be of huge assistance in dealing with societal issues in areas such as ageing, climate change, food safety and healthcare. At the same time, we must not close our eyes to challenges such as the protection of fundamental rights including privacy, non-discrimination and autonomy.

If the Netherlands and Europe wish to be at the forefront of a globally competitive economy, we must accelerate the development and application of AI in the Netherlands. We can do so. The Netherlands is well positioned to take on this challenge, partly due to its high-quality connectivity, strong foundation for public-private partnerships (PPP) and world-class research. We must make good use of this head start to develop our international profile in this area.

The government is focusing on three tracks. Track 1 is that we must capitalise on societal and economic opportunities. This goal requires intensive PPPs, which will enable the Netherlands to make a difference on the European playing field and in global markets. From start-ups and scale-ups to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or large corporations, companies are crucial due to their innovative and competitive power. They will determine whether the Netherlands leads the way in AI or ends up following other countries in this area, and whether AI applications will really benefit the Dutch economy and Dutch society. Companies' added value comes from their ability to respond both to societal challenges and market demand. As a result, the government is developing this track in PPPs, particularly with the Dutch AI Coalition, while calling on companies and organisations to join in these efforts.

Track 2 intends to arrange the required prerequisites for a favourable AI climate in the economy and society at large. These prerequisites include the right knowledge, skills and training: top-quality scientific AI research as well as applied research that businesses and professionals can use. They also include usable data and high-quality and intelligent connectivity. In this context, we are investing in research programmes, increasing access to innovation funding for start-ups, investing in training, promoting data-sharing, and further developing digital connectivity with and for AI.

Track 3 is about 'Strengthening the foundations'. This track concerns the protection of citizens' fundamental rights as well as appropriate legal and ethical frameworks. As a result, people and companies will feel confident that AI will be used with care. It is important as well that markets remain open and competitive, and that national security is safeguarded in all AI developments. To this end, the necessary legislation and regulations are already in force or in the making. The government is also monitoring AI developments and making efforts to ensure the use of ethical guidelines (European and otherwise) for AI applications by companies and public organisations.

In other words, there is no time to waste. This Strategic Action Plan for AI describes the course that the Netherlands wants to take. It is a first step towards initiating concrete measures to achieve the intended acceleration and profile. The government cooperates with the Dutch AI Coalition, in which companies, government agencies, knowledge institutions and educational institutions join forces to implement new AI actions that help specific domains and sectors.

The following principles play a guiding role in the Dutch approach:

- We work together in public-private partnerships, including in the Dutch AI Coalition, to seize the societal and economic opportunities of AI.
- The Netherlands is committed to international cooperation, especially with European partners.
- We promote ourselves as a country that is at the forefront of AI applications which serve the interests of people and society.
- We opt for an inclusive approach that puts people first, in which we strive for reliable AI.

The Dutch AI approach has the following main objective: The Netherlands is able to capitalise on AI's societal and economic opportunities, as well as to safeguard the public interests of AI, thus contributing to prosperity and well-being. This objective is elaborated in three tracks, comprising a total of eleven objectives, as indicated in the following infographic.