



KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

“AI GOVERNANCE: HOW TO BENEFIT EVERYONE?”

Panelists: Urs Gasser (TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology, DE), Amèlie Hennemann-Heldt (German Federal Chancellery, DE), Helmut Krcmar (TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology, DE), Isa Sonnenfeld (Tech Leader, Advisor, Former Google News Lab Head, EMEA, DE), Ludwig Siegele (Moderation) (The Economist, DE)

AI governance requires a balanced approach that manages risks without stifling innovation. Europe’s regulatory approach, including the AI Act, emphasises ethical standards, but there is ongoing debate about whether strict regulations could prevent the EU from competing effectively with other regions, such as the US. While it’s essential to address immediate concerns like privacy and security, focusing only on risks – especially those associated with fringe AI applications – may overshadow AI’s substantial benefits in mainstream use. Instead of trying to replicate Silicon Valley, the EU has an opportunity to develop an AI governance model that reflects its own values and scale up its vibrant startup culture.

THE EXPERT PANEL ARTICULATES THE FOLLOWING CALLS TO ACTION:

Promote practical AI implementation.

1 — Facilitate real-world testing and deployment of AI systems to identify challenges and refine regulations.

Leverage universities as innovation hubs.

2 — Utilise universities to bridge theory and practice, encourage interdisciplinary research, and equip future AI leaders with the skills and perspectives needed in an evolving field.

Encourage flexible, adaptive regulation.

3 — Create regulatory approaches that evolve alongside AI technology, balancing risk management with the need to foster innovation and remain competitive.

Strengthen the startup ecosystem.

4 — Support policies and funding initiatives that enable European startups to scale, encouraging the growth of AI ‘unicorns’ within the EU.

Embrace a distinct European model for AI.

5 — Develop an AI governance framework that aligns with European values and priorities, focusing on ethical standards and societal benefits rather than replicating models from Silicon Valley.

This expert panel is supported by Technical University of Munich and assembled in the framework of the Falling Walls Science Summit 2024 in Berlin. The Falling Walls Science Summit is a leading international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral forum for scientific breakthroughs. It commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall and aims to promote dialogue between science and society.

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