

CEPS Task Force on the

Apply AI Strategy

Translating Europe's AI ambition into industrial reality

Europe is at a turning point. After a regulation period marked by the AI Act, the European Commission is now focusing on applying and scaling up AI in key domains such as science, industry and government, as called for by the Draghi report and supported by data showing the limited adoption of AI in industry and government. In January 2025, the Competitiveness Compass announced the creation of a “CERN for AI” to provide the necessary coordination and support for both fundamental and applied research. We then saw the launch of RAISE, devoted to resources for AI in science, and the Apply AI Strategy, focusing on promoting uptake in eleven sectors. All in the name of competitiveness, but also AI sovereignty.

The question is no longer whether AI will reshape Europe’s economy, it is whether Europe will lead that reshaping or watch from the sidelines. This is why **CEPS is launching a dedicated Task Force to bridge the gap between policy ambition and on-the-ground reality**, with in-depth analysis and direct industry engagement. The Apply AI Strategy is ambitious, however it comes with a heavy implementation burden and, as of yet, no dedicated budget. The critical link between the Strategy and the European Competitiveness Fund remains unresolved. Without coherence, Europe risks repeating the mistakes of 2021: industrial strategies and 'transition pathways' developing in silos, disconnected from the AI, skills and Green Deal agendas. CEPS is stepping in to help ensure that does not happen, convening the expertise, the evidence and the stakeholders needed to turn strategy into practice.

WHY THIS MATTERS

THE APPLY AI STRATEGY: PROMISES AND CHALLENGES

The Apply AI Strategy has the potential to be “the right initiative at the right time”. It adopts an ecosystem approach based on coordination and support: connecting use cases with their infrastructure, data and skills needs, and fostering effective governance and collaboration across value chains. It does not provide standardised recipes across domains. Rather, it offers new tailored solutions and flagship applications, keeping a firm link with the broader EU legislative agenda, from digital connectivity to cloud sovereignty, powerful AI compute infrastructures and the investment in a common, open-source European Frontier AI model.

But it also comes with hard questions: What is the vision for the AI-powered transformation of each sector, and has there been any credible foresight exercise to define it? Would flagship applications truly meet sector-specific requirements? Simply relying on large-scale data centres and powerful GPUs will not work whenever industry needs more decentralised, edge/cloud architectures and smaller models, every sector will require a different solution. Will existing cross-cutting initiatives such as the AI Factories and Gigafactories actually serve the needs of industrial sectors? The EU data strategy has struggled to produce results: how can the EU ensure

it delivers this time? And should the strategy be ‘humans first’ rather than ‘AI first’, proactively designing AI solutions that augment rather than replace workers?

Tackling these questions requires a well-coordinated multistakeholder platform where experts, industry players and civil society discuss and shape the priorities of the Apply AI strategy in the coming months, with the necessary sense of urgency. CEPS is willing to provide this platform with a view to delivering strong and actionable recommendations in the next few months.

THE TASK FORCE

THREE INITIAL TRACKS

The CEPS Applied AI Task Force brings together senior executives, policy-makers, technologists, and researchers across three strategic sectors.

<p>TRACK 01 Healthcare & Pharma <i>AI diagnostics, drug discovery & personalised medicine</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Clinical decision support, diagnostics and imaging (pathology, CVD, cancer screening) – Drug discovery: target identification, compound design and repurposing – Precision medicine, personalised dosing and genomics (1+ Million Genomes) – Health data spaces and interoperability under the European Health Data Space (EHDS) – Regulatory pathways for AI medical devices under the AI Act and MDR 	<p>TRACK 02 Automotive, Mobility & Transport <i>Autonomous systems, smart mobility & supply chain intelligence</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Autonomous driving, software-defined vehicles (SDVs) and the ECAVA platform – Agentic AI for manufacturing, supply chain resilience and predictive maintenance – Connected vehicle data (V2X), fleet optimisation and Ambition Cities initiative – In-vehicle software stacks, OTA updates and data sovereignty – Harmonised type-approval, AI Act compliance and cross-border testbeds 	<p>TRACK 03 Government & Public Sector <i>AI-enabled services, policy tools & public administration</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Workflow automation, document processing and case management (OECD 2025: most common use case) – Citizen services: GenAI chatbots and automated applications (DIGITAL 2025–27 pilots) – Tax administration, fraud detection and risk-based auditing – Public procurement of AI (€2tn annually, 14% of GDP): greatest opportunity and binding constraint – Sovereign AI infrastructure: AI toolbox, PAIR Pathway and national language models (e.g. GPT-NL, PLLuM)
--	--	---

Each track is designed to grow further. The Task Force framework can be extended to cover additional sectors from the Apply AI Strategy's full list of eleven domains, making this a long-term platform, not a one-off exercise.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

FIVE KEY ISSUE AREAS APPLIED TO EACH TRACK

Every track follows a consistent, rigorous analytical structure. This ensures comparability across sectors and allows cross-cutting insights to emerge - insights that no single sector analysis could produce alone. The evidence base for each track draws on a combination of primary research, expert interviews, and stakeholder engagement, and is presented in the sector sections of this prospectus.

1	<p>Key Use Cases per Sector</p> <p>Mapping flagship applications, assessing the ambition and maturity of existing initiatives, and identifying the highest-impact opportunities for AI deployment in each domain.</p>
2	<p>Infrastructure - Hardware & Software Requirements</p> <p>Evaluating compute needs, AI Factories and Gigafactories, cloud infrastructure, open-source tooling, and the pan-European Frontier AI model. What exists, what's missing, and who should build it.</p>
3	<p>Data Governance & AI</p> <p>Navigating the EU Data Act, Data Strategy, and sector-specific data spaces. Building the interoperability and governance frameworks that turn data assets into AI fuel.</p>
4	<p>Applications & Flagships</p> <p>Developing tailored sector solutions aligned with the EU legislative agenda. Identifying the flagship projects that can catalyse broader adoption and demonstrate European AI leadership.</p>
5	<p>Sovereignty & Roadmap to Industrial Transformation</p> <p>Defining the balance between technological sovereignty and global competitiveness. Setting the role of open source, crafting sectoral blueprints, and turning strategy into concrete implementation roadmaps.</p>

Cross-Cutting Policy Landscape

All three tracks engage with the shared EU policy environment: the AI Act, the Data Strategy and Data Act, the Cloud & AI Development Act, AI Factories and Gigafactories, the RAISE initiative, and the broader Competitiveness Compass agenda. This ensures that sector-specific insights are always grounded in the full legislative and investment context.

TRACK 01 HEALTHCARE & PHARMA

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the frailties of the EU's public health systems to the fore, placing renewed urgency on building public health resilience and catalysing R&D investments to this end. Despite unprecedented [levels of investment](#), with a 40% rise in expenditure in less than a decade, Europe's healthcare sector [faces](#) mounting pressure amidst an aging population and significant workforce shortages. Artificial intelligence technologies [offer](#) a promising pathway to reverse this trend, for example, by improving diagnostics, accelerating drug discovery and maximising resources, in a sector that [accounts](#) for over 10% of EU GDP and total employment. However, without AI uptake, this potential is bound to remain unfulfilled.

TRACK 01

Healthcare & pharma

AI diagnostics, drug discovery & personalised medicine

- Clinical decision support, diagnostics and imaging (pathology, CVD, cancer screening)
- Drug discovery: target identification, compound design and repurposing
- Precision medicine, personalised dosing and genomics (1+ Million Genomes)
- Health data spaces and interoperability under the European Health Data Space (EHDS)
- Regulatory pathways for AI medical devices under the AI Act and MDR

Ambitious in aim and scope, the Union's Apply AI Strategy identifies healthcare and pharma as a strategic priority, outlining AI-powered advanced screening centres, drug discovery and shorter lab-to-market transfers as key policy initiatives. Yet, the pathway for AI uptake remains uncharted. This is the mission of CEPS' Apply AI task force (track 01), which fosters an in-depth analysis and industry engagement to study AI uptake in healthcare and pharma across five key issue areas: 1) map high-impact use cases and their positioning on the implementation spectrum, from low-barrier opportunities to long-term transformative investments; 2) evaluate specialised infrastructure and compute requirements; 3) establish a roadmap to make the European Health Data Space an operational reality, 4) identify strategic flagships to catalyse AI adoption in health and pharma, and 5) develop a blueprint for EU sovereignty in this area.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK - AI IN HEALTHCARE & PHARMA

1. Key Use Cases

High-impact AI use cases in healthcare [include](#) clinical decision support, diagnostics and imaging, drug discovery (spanning molecule design, trial and safety monitoring), and personalised medicine. The Apply AI Strategy addresses most of these but with varying degree of associated actions. For example, although healthcare professionals consider operational applications, including notetaking and resource allocation, as an immediate target for AI uptake, this area receives less attention in the Strategy. To strategically inform its implementation, the first issue area of the taskforce maps the broad range of AI applications in healthcare and pharma by understanding which are immediate gains versus long-term efforts, looking into their maturity and technology-readiness levels, as well as fragmentation across Member States. The landscape of promising, effective and transformative AI use cases will form the basis for analysing subsequent issue areas.

2. Infrastructure – Hardware & Software Requirements

This issue area identifies infrastructural requirements and barriers for selected use cases. It maps leverageable infrastructure and major gaps across compute (CPUs, GPUs), cloud infrastructure (training, inference), and low-latency edge computing, based on the modelling approaches that best fit each use case (e.g., generative and agentic AI, traditional machine learning). For example, drug discovery requires cloud-based GPUs, [access](#) to which has become increasingly constrained. While the [AI factories](#) can address this gap, it is necessary to determine which facilities are best-placed to support the sector and how access should be prioritised. Likewise, whereas healthcare operations require cloud connectivity for real-time model updates, European hospitals often [rely](#) on local servers. By mapping infrastructural requirements to use cases, CEPS' taskforce identifies the need for tailored support and targeted investments across the AI stack.

3. Data Governance & AI

Access to data, as well as the quality, diversity and interoperability of datasets [are](#) major barriers for AI uptake in healthcare and pharma. Despite the sector's sheer volume of data (e.g., EHRs, imaging data), the lack of common schemas for data storage, sharing and transfer, has [resulted](#) in incomplete, difficult-to-operationalise datasets, often stored in proprietary systems. Regulatory requirements have inadvertently [sidelined](#) small players and led to a lack of representative European data, prompting the recourse to algorithms trained elsewhere and placing medical accountability and systems' robustness in deployment contexts at risk. This issue area inquires into data governance measures required to apply AI in healthcare and pharma, examining the [European Health Data Space](#) and how it can be realised as privacy- and IP-preserving data infrastructure, and the need for [agile](#) and [ethical](#) data ownership and consent mechanisms.

4. Applications & Flagships

With only half of EU Member States [allocating](#) funding for implementing AI in healthcare, a large disconnect [persists](#) between R&D and actual clinical adoption. Multiple variables factor into this, including practitioners' reluctance to incorporate AI in clinical care, mismatch between AI functionality and complexity of medical workflows, lengthy lab-to-market procedures, and regulatory uncertainty. This issue area identifies projects capable of catalysing broader AI adoption in health and pharma, advancing tailored solutions required to mitigate existing barriers. It considers the use cases identified in issue area 1, alongside recent EU initiatives (e.g., [EU Biotech Act](#)), to determine the flagship initiatives that should be prioritised for implementation.

5. Sovereignty & Roadmap to Industrial Transformation

With less than 10% of EU countries [having](#) AI liability standards or guidance in place, significant [regulatory uncertainty](#), and lengthy [procurement delays](#), transformation in the health and pharma industries is significantly hindered. Mapping challenges and dependencies in the sectoral supply chain and opportunities for developing EU-centric solutions, this issue area puts forward concrete implementation roadmaps and a blueprint for applying AI in healthcare and pharma. This implies not only determining the sector's technological (e.g., interoperability, reliability, transparency and open-source), regulatory (e.g., AI Act, MDR) and benchmarking (e.g., CE-marking, clinical validation, post-market monitoring) baselines, but also assessing the role of [Testing and Experimentation Facilities](#) (TEFs), regulatory sandboxes and procurement as enablers of industrial transformation.

TRACK 02 AUTOMOTIVE, MOBILITY, TRANSPORT

Europe's automotive transition is no longer only about setting direction. It is now about implementation: turning AI policy, industrial strategy, data governance and regulatory coordination into deployable outcomes across vehicles, factories and mobility systems. CEPS is therefore dedicating one of its three sector tracks to Automotive, Mobility & Transport. The [European Commission](#) describes the automotive sector as generating around EUR 1 trillion in GDP and supporting around 13 million jobs across Europe. [ACEA](#) adds that the industry supports 254 automobile assembly, engine and battery production plants in the EU, accounts for 34% of total EU R&D spending, or roughly EUR 84.6 billion annually, and represents around one third of global self-driving patent applications. The key question is not whether AI is relevant to the sector, but whether Europe can convert its industrial base and research strength into deployable applications, faster learning cycles and workable governance across the full value chain.

TRACK 02

Automotive, Mobility Transport

Autonomous systems, smart mobility & supply chain intelligence

- Autonomous driving, software-defined vehicles (SDVs) and the ECAVA platform
- Agentic AI for manufacturing, supply chain resilience and predictive maintenance
- Connected vehicle data (V2X), fleet optimisation and Ambition Cities initiative
- In-vehicle software stacks, OTA updates and data sovereignty
- - Harmonized type-approval, AI Act compliance and cross-border testbeds

Taken together, these challenges point to a single goal: moving from scattered AI experimentation to industrial and mobility deployment at scale, using the instruments already foreseen in the Apply AI Strategy, including AI Factories and Gigafactories, testing and experimentation facilities, regulatory sandboxes, the Apply AI Alliance and the AI Observatory. The Automotive track will follow the same five-part analytical framework as the wider CEPS Task Force, but with a sharper sectoral focus. It will map the applications that matter most, examine the infrastructure and data conditions needed for deployment, identify flagship initiatives that can anchor adoption, and translate those discussions into a practical roadmap for competitiveness, resilience and technological sovereignty. CEPS Task Force will give participants a structured way to shape priorities before positions harden, while gaining early visibility into CEPS analysis, draft outputs and the policy and investment debates that will influence deployment choices across the sector.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK - AI IN AUTOMOTIVE & MOBILITY

1. Key use cases per sector

The track will map the automotive use cases where AI can deliver the highest strategic value and assess the ambition and maturity of current activity. On the industrial side, that includes predictive maintenance, quality intelligence, supplier-risk detection, logistics optimization and adaptive production planning. [OECD's 2026 analysis](#) of AI in high-impact sectors shows uneven uptake, with manufacturing at 11% and transport at 8% in 2024, concentrated in functions such as predictive maintenance, quality assurance and supply-chain optimization. Some use cases are already approaching deployment, while others still lack the conditions for

scale. On the vehicle and mobility side, the agenda includes autonomous driving, software-defined vehicles, V2X-enabled safety and traffic services, fleet management, data-enabled vehicle operations and OTA-enabled functional improvement. The [Apply AI Strategy](#), the [Vehicle of the Future initiative](#) and [ECAVA](#) together form the policy and coordination setting, and the work of this track will distinguish where Europe already has the ingredients for scale and where applications are still trapped in pilots, fragmented data environments or immature validation paths.

2. Infrastructure - hardware and software requirements

Automotive AI depends on a wider infrastructure stack than most sectors. The track will therefore examine the enabling conditions across compute, connectivity, validation and integration. That includes semiconductors, sensors, edge processing in vehicles and factories, industrial software, telecom and roadside infrastructure, simulation environments, testing capacity and increasingly centralized compute architectures for software-defined vehicles. AI Factories, Gigafactories, testing and experimentation facilities and AI Act sandboxes are all relevant to automotive deployment where public and private investment need to align. ECAVA has become one of the clearest coordination spaces for that agenda. Its [first pre-steering meeting](#) in October 2025 brought together 26 leading companies and associations, and the [first working groups](#) in February 2026 gathered almost 200 participants. ECAVA therefore offers a useful indicator of whether Europe is reducing fragmentation, identifying missing building blocks and linking public policy with industrial deployment needs. Infrastructure gaps often determine whether otherwise promising AI applications can be deployed at all, and the track will use that landscape to identify where shared European building blocks are emerging and where missing infrastructure is still slowing adoption.

3. Data governance and AI

Automotive data is distributed across OEMs, suppliers, fleet operators, workshops, public authorities and software providers, which makes governance central to deployment. The track will focus on the practical conditions for data access, interoperability, trust, liability management and commercial viability across the value chain. [Catena-X](#) offers a live reference point for sovereign and standardized data sharing in the automotive ecosystem, while the Data Act, sectoral data spaces, EDIHs and the AI Observatory are shaping the wider implementation environment. Vehicle, fleet, infrastructure and industrial data will only generate value at scale when they can move across actors under conditions that protect cybersecurity, commercial incentives and strategic autonomy. The work in this area will clarify which governance models are becoming workable and where policy or market failures still block deployment.

4. Applications and flagships

The track will identify the applications and flagship initiatives most likely to accelerate deployment and demonstrate European leadership in automotive AI. In manufacturing, that points to predictive maintenance, quality control, supply-chain resilience and adaptive production planning. In connected mobility, it points to applications that combine vehicle data, roadside infrastructure and public authorities under real operating conditions. The [Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities](#) initiative has its relevance in linking AI-enabled mobility services to urban and corridor deployment rather than isolated pilots. For autonomous driving and SDVs, promising flagships include shared software building blocks, common validation environments, OTA-capable lifecycle management and larger-scale demonstrators connected to ECAVA and the wider CCAM ecosystem.

Participants in the track will be able to test which of these candidates have the industrial, regulatory and political conditions to become credible European flagships.

5. Sovereignty and roadmap to industrial transformation

The final lens will turn the discussion into a roadmap for industrial transformation. Competitiveness in automotive AI will depend not only on technical performance, but also on Europe's ability to deploy under conditions that reinforce safety, resilience and sovereignty. The roadmap will therefore bring together autonomous driving, SDVs, OTA updates, data sovereignty, conformity assessment, AI Act compliance, type-approval and cross-border testing. [UNECE WP.29](#) remains the core forum for harmonized vehicle regulation, while UNECE Regulations [No. 155](#) and [No. 156](#) formalize cybersecurity and software update management as part of vehicle approval. The [Commission's automotive action plan](#) also calls for more harmonized testing and deployment rules and notes that European manufacturers and suppliers still account for 45% of global automotive R&D investment. The output of the track will be a clearer picture of which bottlenecks require coordination, where first-mover opportunities are emerging, and what an actionable European deployment pathway should look like across the automotive value chain.

TRACK 03 GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SECTOR

Public administrations are the EU's largest institutional buyers of technology, and their operational choices on how AI is governed and deployed impact EU sovereignty and the quality of services delivered to citizens and businesses. When governments adopt AI effectively, they set practical standards for trustworthy deployment that extend across the wider economy.

The barriers to this effective adoption are structural. Fragmented data architectures, insufficient internal capacity, and governance frameworks that trail behind deployment keep most administrations at the [pilot stage](#). Sequencing matters: interoperability must precede intelligence, and accountability mechanisms must be in place before automation is introduced at scale. With agentic systems entering government workflows in 2026 and public procurement worth roughly 2 trillion euros annually representing a powerful lever for a sovereign EU AI supply chain, the conditions for scaling deployment determine which administrations lead and which fall further behind.

TRACK 03

Government & Public Sector

AI-enabled services, policy tools & public administration

- - Intelligent workflow automation, document processing and case management – the most scalable AI application in EU public administrations
- GenAI-powered citizen services: conversational assistants, proactive service delivery, and accessible digital government
- AI-assisted policymaking: evidence synthesis, trend analysis, regulatory impact modelling, and participatory tools
- Tax administration, fraud detection, risk-based auditing, and benefits integrity

- Public procurement of AI as a strategic governance instrument: capabilities, award criteria, and sovereignty
- Sovereign AI infrastructure: the EU AI Toolbox, PAIR Pathway, national language models, and the GovTech ecosystem
- Agentic AI in government: autonomous workflow systems, human-in-the-loop governance, and accountability frameworks

The track follows the three-session structure of the wider Task Force, with a focus on what is distinctive about AI adoption in public administration: **the institutional conditions** that determine deployment success, **the governance obligations** that public law imposes, and **the strategic choices about sovereignty** and internal capability that will shape European public administration in the years ahead.

ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK - GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SECTOR

1. Key use cases per sector

The track will map the AI applications delivering measurable value across EU public administrations and assess what it takes to move from demonstrated pilots to systematic deployment. Document and data processing consistently ranks as the highest-impact, most scalable application in EC practitioner consultations, followed by GenAI citizen services and AI-assisted fraud detection. EU flagship programmes, including the AI Toolbox, the PAIR Pathway, and emerging national language model initiatives, frame the institutional supply side. At the frontier of policymaking, AI tools for large-scale evidence synthesis, regulatory impact modelling, and participatory engagement are beginning to change how administrations design and communicate policy, an area where the EU's institutional capacity is still catching up with the technical possibilities. The track will assess not only where these programmes stand, but what conditions have enabled them to progress.

2. Infrastructure - hardware and software requirements

The dominant barriers to government AI deployment are institutional: data silos, skills gaps, and fragmented IT architectures. EU support instruments, including AI Factories, European Digital Innovation Hubs, and regulatory sandboxes, are directly relevant, though their fitness for complex government environments is still being tested. A core analytical theme is the sequencing imperative: deploying predictive tools without adequate data infrastructure, or introducing automation without established accountability mechanisms, generates new failure modes rather than efficiencies. Skills gaps throughout the civil service, from frontline digital literacy to senior technical leadership, leave governments dependent on external vendors rather than capable of informed procurement and oversight, creating a dynamic where public bodies risk losing the institutional capacity to understand and govern the systems they commission.

3. Data governance and AI

Government data is distributed across public administrations of different levels and functions, which makes governance central to deployment. Data governance is infrastructure in its own right: how interoperability frameworks, common data spaces, and the once-only principle can provide the connective tissue that AI

deployment requires across agency and administrative boundaries. The track will clarify which governance models are becoming workable and where policy or market failures still block deployment.

4. Applications and flagships

The track will identify the applications and flagship initiatives most likely to accelerate deployment and demonstrate European leadership in government AI. Document and data processing, GenAI-powered citizen services, AI-assisted fraud detection and tax administration, and AI tools for evidence synthesis and regulatory impact modelling are the clearest candidates. Public procurement of AI as a strategic governance instrument, worth roughly 2 trillion euro annually, represents both the greatest opportunity and the most powerful lever for a sovereign EU AI supply chain. Participants in the track will be able to test which of these candidates have the institutional, regulatory and political conditions to become credible European flagships.

5. Sovereignty and roadmap to industrial transformation

The final lens addresses the governance questions most specific to public administration. The AI Act's High-Risk classification applies to a wide range of public sector systems, creating compliance obligations that many administrations are not yet equipped to meet. The arrival of agentic AI, with autonomous systems managing workflows and citizen interactions with limited continuous oversight, intensifies that urgency in 2026. The track will also address public procurement as a strategic instrument of AI sovereignty and the risk of institutional hollowing-out, where governments progressively lose the capacity to govern the infrastructure they depend on. Questions about human-in-the-loop requirements, escalation thresholds, liability attribution, and audit trail standards are currently being resolved case by case rather than by design. The output of the track will be a clearer picture of which bottlenecks require coordination, where first-mover opportunities are emerging, and what an actionable European deployment pathway should look like across public administration.

ORGANISATION, PRICING & GOVERNANCE

WHY JOIN THE TASK FORCE

IMPACT ON THE AGENDA

Participation in the CEPS Applied AI Task Force is an investment in policy impact, strategic foresight, and a network of peers shaping Europe's AI future. Members benefit from:

- **EU policy-maker environment.** CEPS operates at the heart of Brussels policy debates. Task Force members will have the opportunity to engage with policy-makers on the EU, national and regional level, with an interest in the Apply AI Strategy.
- **First-mover intelligence.** Receive draft outputs, sector analyses, and policy briefs before public release. Understand how the AI regulatory and investment landscape is evolving - before your competitors do.
- **Cross-sector peer network.** Participate in curated roundtables and working sessions with senior executives and technologists from healthcare, automotive, and public sector organisations across Europe.
- **Co-authorship of sectoral blueprints.** Members contribute to - and are credited in - the final deliverables: sector-specific AI transformation roadmaps that will inform EU policy and investment decisions.
- **Visibility and reputational positioning.** CEPS Task Force outputs are widely cited in EU institutions, media, and industry. Participation signals leadership and commitment to a competitive, sovereign European AI ecosystem.

TIMELINE

FROM STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENTATION: JUNE 2026–FEBRUARY 2027

The Task Force runs from **June 2026 to February 2027**, structured around nine sector-specific working sessions running June through December, followed by drafting and review phase, and a Final Report launch in February 2027. All sessions are hybrid, with physical attendance strongly encouraged. Chatham House Rules apply throughout.

SESSION	FOCUS	DATE
Session 1: all tracks	Sectoral Flagships - use cases, existing initiatives, ambition assessment	Wednesday, June 10: 9:00-12:00: Track 1 Healthcare and Pharma 14:00-17:00: Track 2 Automotive and Mobility Thursday, June 11: 10:00-13:00: Track 3 Government and Public Sector
Session 2: all tracks	Cross-Cutting Support - AI Factories, EDIHs, data spaces, compute	September/ October (date announced during first session)

	infrastructure, regulatory sandboxes.	
Session 3: all tracks	Governance & Sovereignty - sectoral blueprints, sovereignty goals, implementation roadmaps.	November/ December (date announced during session 2)

June to December 2026: Working Sessions

Nine sector-specific sessions spread across June to December, three per track, one per analytical pillar (Flagships, Cross-Cutting Support, Governance). Each session opens with expert presentations and moves into structured Chatham House discussion.

January 2027: Drafting & Member Review

CEPS research team drafts the Final Report and three sector policy briefs. Task Force members review and comment on draft outputs. All findings are synthesised with cross-sectoral analysis and policy recommendations for the Apply AI Alliance.

February 2027: Final Report Launch

Public launch event for the Final Report, incorporating cross-sectoral analysis, three sector policy briefs, and concrete recommendations. Wide dissemination through CEPS publications, events and media.

Deliverables:

- Final Report with cross-sectoral analysis and recommendations
- Three sector policy briefs (Healthcare, Automotive, Government)
- An established stakeholder network connecting EDIHs, industry, and policymakers

PARTICIPATION & FUNDING

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The Task Force is open to CEPS Members and non-members alike. Organisations may participate in a single sector track or across all three. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for organisations wishing to take a leading role in shaping the Task Force's agenda and visibility.

CEPS MEMBERS Fee Structure (+21% VAT)

Membership type	1 Track	2 Tracks	3 Tracks
Premium Corporate Members	Free	Free	Free
Corporate Members	EUR 2,200	EUR 4,000	EUR 5,500
Association Members	EUR 2,200	EUR 4,000	EUR 5,500
Premium Institutional	Free	Free	Free

Institutional Members	EUR 1,200	EUR 2,200	EUR 3,200
Civil Society Organisations	EUR 250	EUR 300	EUR 350
Academia	Free	Free	Free

NON-MEMBERS Fee Structure (+21% VAT)

Membership type	1 Track	2 Tracks	3 Tracks
Corporations & Associations	EUR 4,000	EUR 7,000	EUR 10,000
Institutions	EUR 1,500	EUR 2,800	EUR 4,000
Civil Society Organisations	EUR 400	EUR 750	EUR 1,100
Academic/Policy Observers	Free	Free	Free

GOVERNANCE

The Coordinator of the Task Force will be **Andrea Renda**, Director of Research at CEPS. The Horizontal Governance will be provided by **Katja Spanz**, Research Manger at CEPS and **Artur Bogucki**, Associate Researcher at CEPS.

The rapporteurs per track are:

Track 01: Healthcare & Pharma

- Susana Aires
- Nicoleta Kyosovska
- Hannah Macdonald
- Petra Varkonyi

Track 02: Automotive, Mobility & Transport

- Jacob Griffith
- Artur Bogucki
- Eduardo Brito

Track 03: Government & Public Sector

- Berta Mizsei
- Federico Plantera
- Suzanne Bonfils

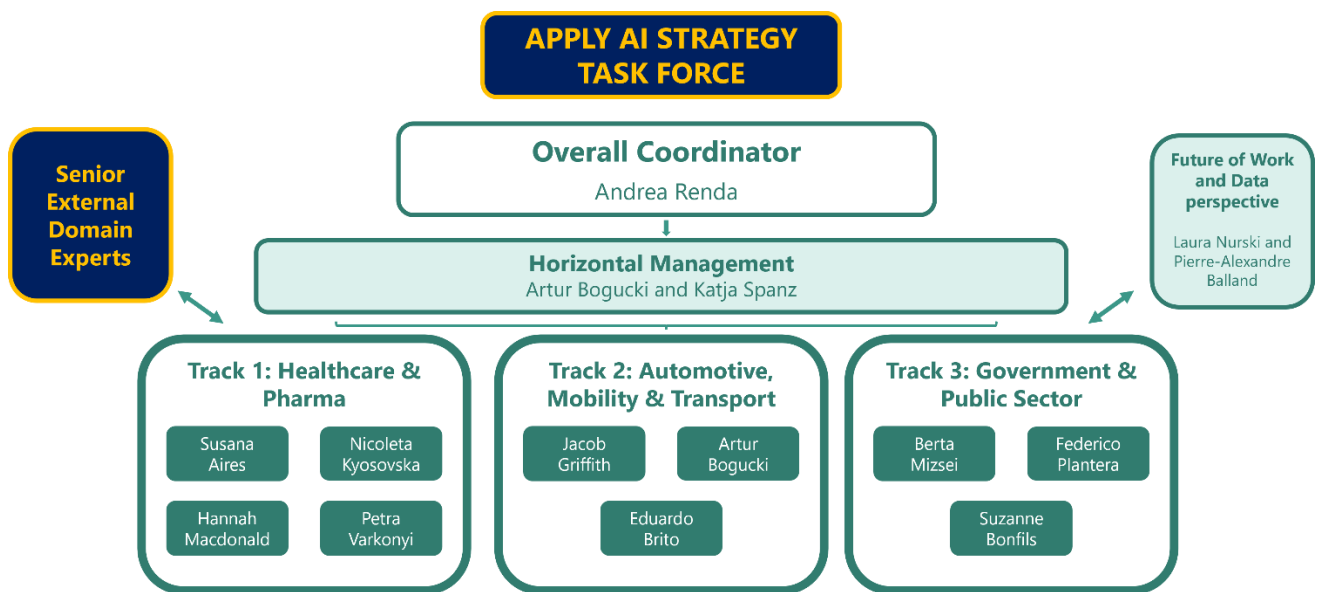
Each meeting is based on CEPS' background notes, contributions by speakers/discussion leaders and input by Task Force members. Each meeting starts with short presentations by the speakers/discussion leaders,

followed by the targeted presentations by Task Force members and other invited experts in the general framework of a structured debate.

Based on each participant’s preparation and the different interventions, we expect a lively debate on the topics to be discussed at the meeting. Task Force members are expected to steer the research agenda of the Working Group’s meetings and the content of the active discussions.

CEPS ensures that discussions during the meeting are balanced and evidence-based. Each meeting will last up to four hours. If necessary, a single meeting may be split into two half-days. CEPS expects Task Force members to participate in a minimum of two of the three closed-door Working Groups meetings.

Governance Structure:



TASK FORCE PRINCIPLES AND RULES

Task Forces are structured dialogues among national and EU policymakers, industry representatives, practitioners, and civil society actors/NGOs, who meet over several sessions. Task Force Reports are the final output of these discussions and the independent research conducted by CEPS. Task Forces are organised and implemented in full compliance with the CEPS Integrity Statement.

Guided by the core principles of the EU’s Better Regulation Framework, this CEPS Task Force will adopt the three core values of evidence-based analysis, transparency and accessibility. The Task Force would evaluate research among top experts in the field, leading to the formulation of evidence-based recommendations. The Task Force will be transparent and accessible, allowing external observers and providing a full list of participants, as well as timely updates on the proceedings and findings.

Key features of the modus operandi of the Task Force include the following:

- **Background notes prepared by CEPS:** A background note lays the foundation for the discussion that will take place during the meeting. It contains background information, fundamental aspects and key

leading questions regarding the topic(s) discussed. It is submitted to the Task Force members prior to the meeting.

- **Contributions by speakers/discussion leaders:** We plan to invite external speakers from academia, industry, civil society and policymakers, chosen in cooperation with our Task Force members to ensure the best possible balance in the debate. Speakers'/discussion leaders' contributions to the meeting are made available beforehand.
- **Consultations with Task Force members:** Task Force members are invited to submit their input to the meeting in the form of a presentation or other relevant materials at least one week before the meeting. Task Force members will have access to all the documents and presentations relating to each Working Group's meetings.

Composition

Chairs: The Chair is an expert appointed by CEPS to steer the dialogue during meetings and advise as to the general conduct of the activities of the Group.

Rapporteurs: Rapporteurs are CEPS and external researchers/academics who organise and implement the Task Force, conduct the research independently and draft the Final Report

The Members: The members are any individuals, such as academics, policymakers, regulators, supervisors, representatives of commercial companies, trade associations, consumer interests' groups, investors' associations, who participate in the activities of the Task Force. They must have expertise in the topics discussed and provide input to the discussions through presentations and relevant material for the final report. Members can include for-profit entities, membership organisations or NGOs which participate in a Task Force. This will ensure that discussions are balanced and evidence-based, making the modus operandi and final output truly multi-stakeholder.

The Task Force members will:

- Participate with up to two representatives per session;
- Steer the research agenda of the meetings and the content of the active discussions;
- Contribute to meetings with active input, including targeted presentations;
- Support the research of the Rapporteurs and comment on the various drafts of the reports, including the possibility to produce written contributions (subject to the Rapporteurs' approval and editing);
- Have access to all the documents and presentation made during the meetings;
- Contribute to the recommendations that will be discussed and added to the final report.

Observers: A group of policymakers, academics, and independent experts may attend the TF meetings. This group will also include speakers invited by CEPS to provide individual contributions to one or more meetings. The lists of members of the Task Force and the Observers will be featured in the final report and on the CEPS websites. All members attend the meetings in a personal capacity and do not necessarily endorse the recommendations of the final report.

Disclaimer

The findings presented in this Final Report do not necessarily reflect the views of all the members of this Task Force. However, the members were involved during the drafting of the Final Report and provided input to the discussions through presentations and the provision of data and other materials, which have been used in this Final Report. A set of principles has guided the entire drafting process to allow all of the interests represented in the Task Force to be heard. The Rapporteurs are solely responsible for its content and any errors contained therein. The Task Force Members, or their respective companies, do not necessarily endorse the conclusions of the Final Report.

CONTACT US

GET IN TOUCH AND JOIN EUROPE'S AI TRANSFORMATION

To express interest or register, complete the CEPS registration form and get in touch with our team. We would be delighted to discuss how participation can be tailored to your organisation's strategic priorities.

Task Force Participation & Sponsorship Enquiries

Katja Spanz - Research Manager

katja.spanz@ceps.eu

Artur Bogucki - Associate Researcher

artur.bogucki@ceps.eu