Artificial intelligence, Data and Robotics ecosystem

https://adra-e.eu/

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² **R**: Report, **DEC:** Websites, patent filling, videos; **DEM:** Demonstrator, pilot, prototype; **OTHER:** Software Tools
³ **PU:** Public**; CO:** Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

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Document summary

The first edition of the AI, Data and Robotics Forum was a successful event implemented with care by the Programme and sub-committees, with close involvement from Adra, the European Commission, and Adra-e. The positive feedback from the post-event survey encourages the organizer to continue with a similar format in the coming editions and provided insight for future improvements.

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1. Introduction

The European AI, Data, Robotics Forum (ADRF) is the annual community gathering event organized by the AI, Data and Robotics Association (Adra) in collaboration with the European Commission to inspire and advance European ADR in its broadest context including Industry, Research and Policymakers. To this end, the program format includes visionary keynotes and thought-provoking panels, as well as a series of parallel sessions on important industrial and societal topics. It also provides the AI, Data, Robotics community with the opportunity to highlight emerging topics and gather critical mass to move them ahead. Furthermore, the event is for everyone who attends to make connections and network, and as such it will provide opportunities for businesses and projects to share their ongoing activities through an exhibition and poster displays as well as the possibility to present themselves.

The first edition of ADRF took place November 8-9 2023 in Versailles. While ADRF covers a wide range of topics, after concertation with the Programme Committee and the European Commission this edition was particularly focussed on on "European Generative AI", given the transformative nature of this technology and the implications of the sudden arrival of Foundation Models in the wider audience through the advent of more or less open tools like Dalle-e and MidJourney for image generation from text, and ChatGPT on top of the GPTx LLMs, bringing these advances in research to a degree of maturity that has allowed their public releases. Without any doubt, this coming-of-age is raising (and will continue to do so) many challenges, as well as providing strategic opportunities to European companies in the ADR ecosystem and beyond. Furthermore, though these technologies raise high hopes to solutions in the face of the different challenges our society and our planet is facing, they may also fuel some fears: if many of them are irrational, the sheer power of these tools introduces potential stumbling blocks to our European values of democracy and human rights that cannot be ignored. Such was the basis of the program format to allow for ample discussion on these important topics during the two day event.

Objectives

Jointly defined by Adra and the European Commission, the five main objectives for the first edition of the ADRF were as follows:

- Share expert visions on the EU landscape on generative AI and Foundation Models (including LLMs), and inform the general public about recent developments and outlooks, in particular in the ADR context
- Identify opportunities for Europe to (globally) position itself as a world leader in the ADR domain
- Facilitate the convergence and synergies between stakeholder communities to move the European AI, Data and Robotics agenda forward

- Bring the ADR communities together and recruit new industry members to join Adra
- Discuss the opportunities, the fantasies, and the actual threats brought by these technologies and their use to our society

1. Organization Committee

The Organization Committee was composed of representatives from Adra, the EC and Adra-e, and led by two conference chairs. Additionally, the Organisation Committee was supported by the following committees:

- **Programme committee** in charge of the keynotes, panels and workshops;
- **Communication and marketing committee** responsible for the website, social media campaigns, and newsletters to inform and promote the event;
- **Sponsoring and exhibition committee** in charge of preparing the sponsorship packages, recruiting sponsors and exhibitors, and organizing the logistics of the booth preparations.

The organization committee held an online kick-off **on** 16 May 2023, and held weekly meetings in preparation of the event.

Programme Committee

- o Prof. Marc Schoenauer (Deputy Research Director in charge of AI, INRIA) – *conference chair*
- o Prof. Stefan Leijnen (VP for AI Industry, AI, Data & Robotics Association) – *conference chair*
- o Evangelia Markidou (Head of Sector, AI Technology, Deployment and Impact, European Commission)
- o Cem Gulec (Programme and policy officer European Commission)
- o Kimmo Rossi (Head of Research and Innovation, Data Policy and Innovation, European Commission)
- o Philip Piatkiewicz (Secretary General, AI, Data & Robotics Association)
- o Juha Röning (Adra Board, University of Oulu)

Local Chairs

- o Viviane Habert (Inria)
- o Jozef Geurts (Inria)

Communication and Marketing Committee

- o Caj Södergård (NextAI)
- o Niccolo Zazzeri (Trust-IT)
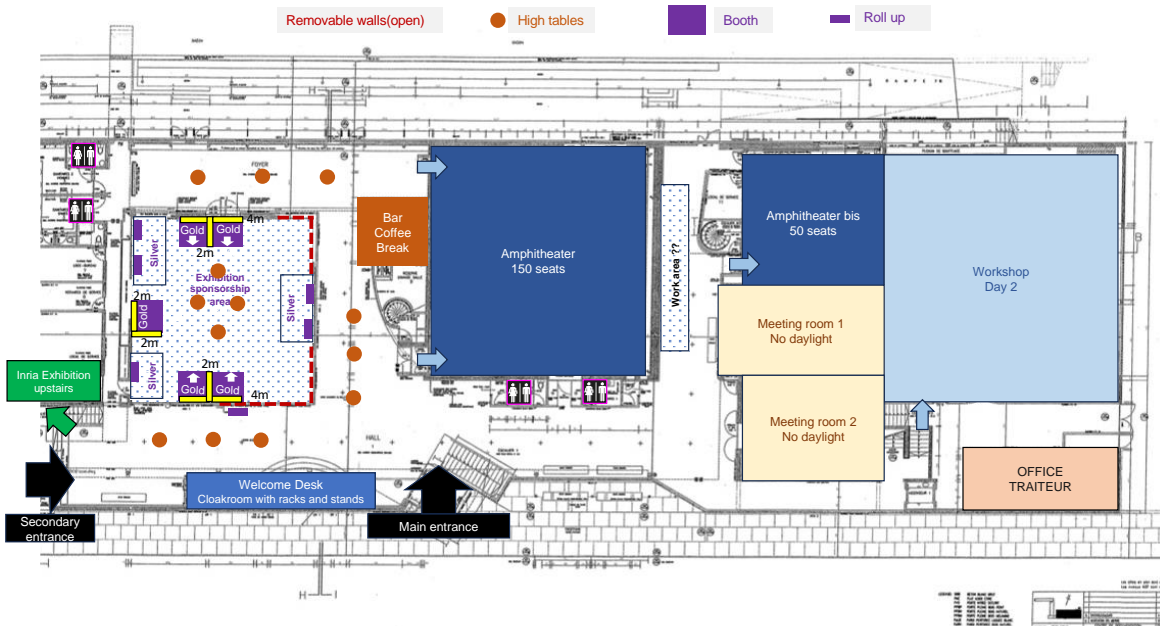
Sponsoring and Exhibition Committee

- o Philip Piatkiewicz (Adra)
- o Eloisa Villar Acevedo (Eviden)

Additional Organization Committee members

- Belen Gellego (Eviden)
- Elizabeth El Haddad (Inria)
- Joanne Ahern (Trust-IT)

2. Venue Inria headquarters Rocquencourt

The Inria headquarters is located 20 minutes from the historical center of Versailles. (transportation of participants from Versailles to the venue was provided). The venue has 2 amphitheaters (150 and 50 seats), a large room (100 seats), and an exhibition space for 10-15 booths.

All photos © Inria / Photo B. Fourrier

3. Keynotes & panelists

The keynotes and panelists of the plenary programme included:

- Emanuela Girardi (Adra)
- Jean-Frédéric Gerbeau (Inria)
- Lucilla Sioli (EC),
- Catherine Simon (Secrétariat général pour l'investissement)
- Michael Fausten (Bosch)
- Willem Jonker (AiNed)
- Laurent Daudet (LightOn)
- Jussi Karlgren (Silo.ai)
- Federico Menna (EIT digtal)
- Megi Mejdrechová (RobotTwin)
- Hans Uszkoreit (Nyonic)
- Roberta Calegari (Univ. Bologna)
- Antoine Couret (HubFrance IA)

4. Programme

The first day of the programme was curated by the Programme Committee around the theme of "Generative AI for European society and industry", whereas a the second day was community driven through an open-call for workshops.

Wednesday November 8

9:00 - 10:00   Registration and Coffee

10:00 - 11:25   Plenary Session – Moderator: Maryline Fiaschi (Science Business)

- Opening - Emanuela Girardi (Adra president) and Jean-Frédéric Gerbeau (Inria Deputy CEO for Science)
- Keynote "Generative AI and Data Ecosystem made in Europe" – Roberto Viola (EC)
- Keynote "Wonderful times" – Catherine Simon (Secrétariat général pour l'investissement)
- Panel "necessary conditions for European Generative AI to thrive" – Lucilla Sioli (EC), Catherine Simon (Secrétariat général pour l'investissement), Michael Fausten (Bosch)

11:25 - 11:50   Coffee + Exhibition

11:50 - 12:55   Plenary Session – Moderator: Maryline Fiaschi (Science Business)

- Keynote "Value creation in applying AI by customisation and tailoring" – Jussi Karlgren (Silo.ai)
- Panel "European startup ecosystem and investment" – Jussi Karlgren (Silo.AI), Federico Menna (EIT Digital), Laurent Daudet (LightOn), Megi Mejdrechová (RobotTwin)

12:55 - 14:15   Lunch + Exhibition

14:15 - 15:45   Parallel Session – Focus on European ADR Industry

- Data for Generative AI – chair: Edward Curry (Insight)
- Generative AI Roundtable (by invitation) – chair: Stefan Leijnen (Adra)

- What is needed to create more scale-ups and unicorns across the region – chair Eugenio Vittorio Platania (ile de France region)

15:45 - 16:00	Coffee + Exhibition
16:00 - 17:20	Plenary Session – Moderator: Maryline Fiaschi (Science Business)

- Keynote "Chances and Obstacles for European Foundation Models" – Hans Uszkoreit (Nyonic)
- Panel "Future of trustworthy AI in Europe" – Hans Uszkoreit (Nyonic), Roberta Calegari (University of Bologna), Antoine Couret (Hub France IA)
- Synthesis of the day and action list - Emanuela Girardi (Adra president) and Jean-Frédéric Gerbeau (Inria Deputy CEO for Science)Closing day 1

17:20 - 18:30	Cocktail
19:30 - 22:00	Social Event (additional fee)

Thursday November 9

9:00 - 10:15	Plenary Session - Official presentation of the Adra SRIDA 2025-2027
	Moderator: Philip Piatkiewicz

- Presentation Adra SRIDA – Fredrik Heintz (Adra)
- "Mapping the EU AI ecosystem: a first view" – Freek Bomhof (Adra)
- Panel – Lucilla Sioli (EC), Bjoern Juretzki (EC), Fredrik Heintz, Nabil Belbachir, Edward Curry, Freek Bomhof

10:15 - 10:45	Coffee + Exhibition
10:45 - 12:15	Parallel Session – Community Workshops

- Towards Mapping the AI-Data-Robotics Ecosystem- chair: Joachim de Greeff
- Enhancing Responsible Robotics in Europe: The Role of Policy and Industry - chair: Miss Jovita Tautkevičiūtė, and Mrs Ana-Maria Stancu
- Innovation and market uptake of AI, data and robotics in inspection and maintenance across sectors: Needs and possibilities. - chair: Aksel Transeth
- Hybrid Intelligence- chair: Prof. Guoying Zhao
- Trusted AI in the age of generative AI and complex AI systems - chair: Dr Rodica Mihai

12:55 - 13:30	Lunch + Exhibition
13:30 - 15:00	Parallel Session – Community Workshops

- Generative AI (1/2) - chair: Stefan Leijnen
- Procurement – chair: Katerina Makrogamvraki
- Adra AG (starts at 13:00)
- AI Robustness in proposals and evaluations (starts at 14:00) - chair: Edina Nemeth
- AI, Data & Robotics for Manufacturing - chair: Dr Mostafizur Rahman, Dr Sotiris Makris

15:00 - 15:30	Coffee + Exhibition
15:30 - 17:00	Parallel Session – Community Workshops

- Innovation, deployment and uptake of ADR technologies - chair: Christophe Leroux and Iddo Bante

- Leveraging AI-based Physical Simulation for Industry - chair: Mouadh Yagoubi
- Generative AI (2/2) - chair: Stefan Leijnen
- TG Healthcare: Data AI Robotics embedded in the healthcare sector: what are the needs to be fulfilled? - chair: Dr Françoise Siepel

17:00 - 17:15   Closing

5. Workshops

The call for workshops was thematically open to any topic at the cross-roads between AI, Data and Robotics. However, for this edition we especially encouraged the submission on the following topics :Workshops that intend to kick-off an Adra topic group

- 'Birds of a feather' workshops for a cluster of projects on a particular topic of mutual interest
- Forward looking workshops that leverage ADR convergence for European industry and/or society

Workshop assessment and selection

The Programme Committee reviewed each submitted proposal, and, at its discretion, made a selection of workshops that were well-fitting and complementary to the programme, and attractive for a large portion of the audience present.

Workshop proposers were advised to explicitly highlight the following points:

- The cross domain nature of their workshop (AI,Data and Robotics)
- The specific, action-oriented workshop purpose with a clearly defined description that will attract attendees to the workshop
- An aim to generate concrete answers/clear expected outcomes to current problems in the field. Therefore, we ask to provide a couple (1-3) of predefined questions to be discussed and answered in the workshop proposal submission form
- A strong focus on new and/or emerging and/or strategic topics as well as those reflecting current areas of community interest
- A clear workshop agenda and confirmed contributors to the workshop
- A plan for a highly interactive workshop, including for example discussions, Q&A, and/or panel sessions to facilitate a lively exchange of ideas among the attendees.
- A balanced representation of industrial and/or academic contributors, and/or involve end-users, policy makes etc.

Proposal submission

- Workshop proposals were submitted via an online form
- The Deadline for workshop applications was **29 September, 2023**

14 eligible workshop proposals were received and evaluated, 2 ineligible proposals were received after the deadline. From the 14 evaluated proposal 10 were selected by the programme committee according to the above criteria.

6. Communication and Marketing

Website

The website for the ADRF was launched on 04 August 2023 and was updated on a nearly daily basis until the event. Pages dedicated to the agenda, speakers, the venue, exhibition and sponsors, workshop proposals, an « about » section and a Registration page were published on the website. The website will remain active until the second edition.

Social Media campaign

Our Social Media campaign ran since August 2023 promoting speakers, workshops and sponsors.

7. Sponsoring and exhibition

The ADRF community stakeholders (e.g Adra members, projects under the umbrella of the ADR partnership and organizations from the Paris region had the opportunity to exhibit their products, results and expertise). 3 types of sponsoring packages; Diamond, Gold and Silver were foreseen for this purpose. 11 organizations sponsored the event.

Sponsorship packages[4]

PACKAGE	EXHIBITION AND INTERACTION	FREE ENTRANCE TICKETS	publicity AND VISIBILITY	PRICE
Diamond	• Personalysed sponsor booth with screen at the event exhibition space, size 6m2 • Opportunity to connect with the audience for 10 minutes (day 1). • Acknowledgment at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies	2 including social dinner	• Special mention in the event email promotional series • Logo placement on all event promotions (emails, landing pages, ads) • Logo visibility on the event website • Logo on Official Sponsor Signage • Full page promotion in event handbook • Social media promotion • Sponsorship report and post-event discussion • One-minute video intended to be shared through social media	€ 5000
Gold	• Personalysed sponsor booth with screen at the event exhibition space, size 4m2 • Opportunity to connect with the audience for 5 minutes (day 1) • Acknowledgment at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies	1 including social dinner 1 without social dinner	• Logo placement on all event promotions (emails, landing pages, ads) • Logo visibility on the event website • Logo on Official Sponsor Signage • Half a page promotion in event handbook • Social media promotion • Sponsorship report and post-event discussion • One-minute video intended to be shared through social media	€ 2500

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[4] https://adrforum.eu/sites/default/files/ADRF_Sponsorship%20Package_V0.5.pdf

| Silver (*) | • Poster spot at the event exhibition space

• Opportunity to connect with the audience for 5 minutes (day 2)

• Acknowledgment at the Opening and Closing Ceremony | 1 without social dinner | • Logo placement on pre-event promotion.

• Logo visibility on the event website

• Logo on Official Sponsor Signage

• Logo in event handbook

• Social media promotion

• Sponsorship report

• One-minute video intended to be shared through social media | € 1000 |

Figure 1 Diamond

Figure 2 Gold

GOLD SPONSORSHIP

TAILOR

IDEAL-IST

EU NETWORKS OF EXCELLENCE

ROBOTICS4EU

INRIA

MCFLY ROBOT TECHNOLOGIES

SILVER SPONSORSHIP

EIT DIGITAL

SAFEXPLAIN

GLACIATION

EMERALDS

FAIRWORK

8. Participation and Ticketing

As the venue had a maximum capacity of 200, the number of available tickets was set to 200. Registration opened at the beginning of September, and closed on November 1st. At that time all tickets were sold for the conference, and 141 tickets for the social event. From the 200 registrants, 192 finally made it to the venue.

Conference entrance fee	capacity	Adra members	Normal	Sold
2-day ticket	200	Eur 200	Eur 400	200
Dinner ticket	150	Eur 60	Eur 60	141
Online (plenary sessions only)	-	free	free	123 (8/11/23) 75 (9/11/23)

9. Satisfaction Survey

A satisfaction survey was sent out to all participants the week following the event. 45 responses were received, including 12 workshop organizers and 2 exhibitors.

Questions :

Rating 1 - 5 (5 = best)

- Please rate the Programme Day 1
- Please rate the Programme Day 2
- Please rate the Venue
- Please rate your experience with the Exhibition Area
- Please rate your experience with the catering and breaks
- Please rate your experience with the ADRF23 App
- Please rate your experience with the Social Activities
- How likely are you to attend the next ADRF editions?
- Are you overall satisfied with the services offered by your package?
- If you were a workshop session organiser, what is your overall level of satisfaction with the organisation of your session?

	1	2	3	4	5	Average
Please rate the Programme Day 1	0	1	8	14	19	3,9
Please rate the Programme Day 2	0	1	6	20	15	3,8
Please rate the Venue	0	3	5	20	16	4,0
Please rate your experience with the Exhibition Area	1	5	17	14	5	3,2
Please rate your experience with the catering and breaks	0	0	3	14	27	4,4
Please rate your experience with the ADRF23 App	1	3	10	14	11	3,3
Please rate your experience with the Social Activities	1	6	6	16	13	3,6
How likely are you to attend the next ADRF editions?	0	2	4	15	22	4,1
Are you overall satisfied with the services offered by your package?	0	0	1	1	0	3,5
If you were a workshop session organiser, what is your overall level of satisfaction with the organisation of your session?	0	2	4	2	4	3,7
Average (computed)						**3,8**

10.   Key Takeaways from the AI, Data and Robotics Forum

The key takeaways were first presented at the conclusion of Day 1 by Emanuela Girardi (Adra president) and Jean-Frédéric Gerbeau (Inria Deputy CEO for Science) and subsequently elaborated to the following text, which has been widely shared by the Adra community in the weeks following the event.

1 – Regulation and innovation: two crucial components

> **Regulation** should be considered a European strength. It ensures the safe and responsible use of AI and brings opportunities for European technology and science. **Innovation** based on European values in the fields of **AI, Data and Robotics** must also be developed and promoted.

2 – A formula for European Generative AI to succeed

> **Data, computing power, AI talent and money** must be considered quantitatively as well as qualitatively. Resource efficiency is critical, and requires us to make technology more frugal, clever and scalable. **But we need to act fast;** the European strategic autonomy is at stake!

3 – Keep a positive attitude

A **positive narrative** is key to bring ADR technologies to European society, and to **encourage investment in training, education and awareness**. AI is general purpose technology that has profound impact on nearly all facets of industry and society. Closer collaboration with other sciences, notably the social sciences and humanities, is necessary. We must ensure the presence of a **European market** and consumers that are ready and prepared to use tech products and services safely and securely.

4 - Adra and the ADR moonshot

Europe can still play a leading role in the international tech race, but we need to start pulling in the same direction and to think big.

We must **break down siloes** between stakeholder communities, **invest** in science and technology, and **develop a big European project, a moonshot** to develop and deploy trustworthy, safe, responsible and green ADR technologies.

Adra fills an existing gap in the European ADR ecosystem and we want you to be a part of it!

11. Conclusion and the next edition

The first edition of the AI, Data and Robotics Forum was a successful event implemented with care by the Programme and sub-committees, with close involvement from Adra, the European Commission, and Adra-e. The positive feedback from the post-event survey encourages the organizer to continue with a similar format in the coming editions and provided insight for future improvements.

The plenary sessions and panel discussions were carefully designed with expert input from the moderators and panelists and the structure of the workshop organisation (a programme committee member responsible for the follow-up of the session organisation from the workshop chair and speakers) has instituted a best practice for future editions. Lessons learned for future editions include to cater the content and programme to the size of the event (for example, fewer competing workshops to encourage higher attendance and less competition), and to launch the exhibition and sponsors invitations earlier to encourage better participation and more demonstrations.

The second (and third) edition(s) are already under discussion with potential dates in 2024 as well as a potential primary organizer and venue. The current Programme Committee hopes to announce the date and location by the beginning of 2024. A handover from the current Programme Committee to the future Programme Committee will take effect in parallel, and will be implemented around the future organizer and venue.