

## Artificial intelligence, Data and Robotics ecosystem

<https://adra-e.eu/>

**Call: A human-centred and ethical development of digital and industrial  
technologies 2021**

**Topic: Horizon-CL4-2021-Human-01**

**Type of action: Coordination and Support actions**

**Grant agreement N°: 101070336**

**WP N°7: Management**

**Deliverable N°7.5: Advisory Board  
recommendations**

**Lead partner: Inria**

**Version N°: 0.2**

**Date: 02/02/2024**

**Dissemination level<sup>1</sup>: PU**

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<sup>1</sup> **PU**: Public; **CO**: Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)



Document information	
Deliverable N° and title:	D7.5 – Advisory Board recommendations 1
Version N°:	0.2
Lead beneficiary:	Inria
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Submission date:	02/02/2024
Due date:	31/01/2024
Type <sup>2</sup> :	R
Dissemination level <sup>3</sup> :	PU

Document history			
Date	Version	Author(s)	Comments
05/01/2024	0.1	Viviane Habert	
30/01/2024		Cees Snoek (UvA)	Review
30/01/2024		Chokri Mraidha (CEA)	Review
31/01/2024		Fatemeh Ahmadizeleti (UoG)	Review
02/02/2024		Joost Geurts (Inria)	Review
02/02/2024		Andrey Girenko (DFKI)	Review
02/02/2024		Philip Piatkiewicz (Adra)	Review
02/02/2024	0.2	Viviane Habert	Final version

Disclaimer :

This document contains description of the Adra-e work and findings.

<sup>2</sup> R: Report, **DEC**: Websites, patent filling, videos; **DEM**: Demonstrator, pilot, prototype; **OTHER**: Software Tools

<sup>3</sup> **PU**: Public; **CO**: Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

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Adra-e has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe under grant agreement 101070336.

## Document summary

The first meeting of the Advisory Board of Adra-e allowed an assessment by high-level experts of the activities undertaken and provide insightful recommendations to be further integrated where feasible in the Adra-e activities.

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## 1. Introduction

WP7 relates to the management of project Adra-e. As this project is a Coordination and Support action, this WP is central to ensuring the correct implementation of the project and building bridges between WPs to ensure coherence.

T7.2 Advisory Board and Reference Committee is in particular responsible for chairing, facilitate, and support of an Advisory Board.

Deliverable D7.5 Advisory Board recommendations 1 is the first iteration of the recommendations received by the Advisory Board members. The objective of D7.5 is to provide a presentation of the Advisory Board as well as the outcomes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting between Adra-e consortium and the Advisory Board members. Two other reports are expected in the course of the project.

## 2. Presentation of Adra-e’s Advisory Board

### 2.1 Advisory Board’s mission

The grant agreement states that the Advisory Board “performs an annual general assessment of the progress made by Adra-e and provides recommendations to improve the efficiency and excellence of its activities. It is composed of highly recognized worldwide experts (i.e., not limited to Europe) of the three disciplines, but also on the legal, ethical, entrepreneurial and political domains who have shown scientific openness to another. A global balance regarding gender and geography should be respected. “

### 2.2 Advisory Board’s composition

Adra-e’s Advisory Board is composed of 8 high-level experts from around the world. They specialize in different fields from AI, Data and Robotics to economy and ethics.

Name	Organisation
Mr Richard Benjamins	Telefonica, Spain
Mr Rodolphe Gelin	Renault Nissan Alliance, France
Ms Yuko Harayama	OECD, Japan
Ms Dongheui Lee	TU Wien, Austria
Ms Juliette Mattioli	Thalès, France
Mr Adegboyega Ojo	Carleton University, Canada
Mr Amedeo Santosuosso	IUSS, University of Pavia, Italy
Ms Carme Torras	CSIC-UPC, Spain

## 3. Recommendations of the Advisory Board

The first online meeting of the Advisory Board took place December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. All Advisory Board members attended and all task leaders and work package leaders were invited as well as the coordinator who chaired the session.

### Agenda:

1. Roundtable Advisory Board member
2. Presentation of Adra-e (10 min)
3. Presentation of Adra (10 min)
4. WP1 presentation (10min)
5. WP2 Presentation (10 min)
6. WP3 Presentation (10min)
7. WP4 Presentation (10min)
8. WP5 Presentation (10 min)
9. Discussions and recommendations from the Advisory Board members (50min)

Presentations of WP1 to WP5 are available in Annex 1.

### 3.1 General recommendations

The objective of the meeting was to gather inputs and feedbacks on the activities carried out in the project. The scope was also to receive guidance and recommendations on the way forward in order to maximise impact of Adra-e's activities.

The Advisory Board members welcomed the clear presentations provided of the overall objectives and activities of the project.

The experts emphasized the very comprehensive way taken by Adra-e to engage with the three communities and taking actions to integrate regional, national and European level. They also favor the support provided by Adra-e to Adra and considered that **Adra success is Adra-e's success**.

They have made specific remarks that will encourage the consortium to look deeper into its activities:

- 1- Convergence within ADR

One of the objectives of Adra-e is to make the AI, Data and Robotics communities' convergence into one ADR community to increase its potential and avoid working in silos.

The experts encourage the consortium to demonstrate the advantage of having the three communities together instead of discussing individually in each community.

- 2- Importance in addressing Sustainable development goals (SDGs)



[The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.<sup>4</sup>

Adra-e has engaged with the ADR community through the SDGs in particular with a cross-community workshop and other activities might follow.

While the experts support the approach taken by Adra-e to address SDGs and to tackle problems associated, they recall the need for investment and the difficulties in currently attracting them. The current investments for ADR are for profit or commercial reason. Therefore, one question that should be answered is how to attract investments to achieve SDGs.

### 3- New possibilities to explore

- Social aspect is essential and a focus should be made on EDI questions such as equity, inclusion, political economy issues : **convergence of ADR should tackle social and economic problems.**
- Efforts are being deployed in the standardization domain. However, the **audits process** is not yet known and do not have any **standards** which creates uncertainty as to how these technologies will be evaluated and assessed.
- A strong **focus** should be made on **high performance computing facilities** (HPC) which are very important to coordinate with at the European level. This concerns the three communities if Europe is to be competitive in relation to the very powerful computing hubs of corporations based in the US and China.

### 4- Identified risks

- There is a lot of parallel activities ongoing and it is difficult for stakeholders to follow these activities in order to take full advantage.
- Increased safety risk of combining Generative AI with Robotics should be analysed.
- “Yet another project to compete with the US!” How to create an infrastructure such that EU can really catch up with the US?
- Engagement of user public to be part of the discussion is missing in Adra-e activities. As they are the end users they should be associated.

## 3.2 *Specific recommendations*

Further to the general recommendations, the meeting was punctuated by specific questions from the consortium to the Advisory Board members to guide the discussions. These questions allowed to receive the following recommendations :

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<sup>4</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals#history>

## General questions on Adra-e

1. How to involve startups, that generally have other urgencies on their agendas?

### **Recommendations:**

- Involve startups with something that they really value, such as pilot customers, specific projects.
- Acting as a platform where startups can meet ADRA members and other startups, and potentially find partners for their own business

2. Convergence Summit and ADR Forum: Completely separate events or back-to-back? Joint with other initiatives (EBDVF, ERF, ...)? Online, physical, or hybrid?

### **Recommendations:**

- To attract participants, in particular for the launch, better to organize Summit and Forum back-to-back and in person with the possibility to follow events online
- Adra-e should at least have representatives participating in as many initiatives in ADR as possible.

## Questions related to Adra:

1. How can Adra-e support Adra to successfully position itself in the European ecosystem and leverage potential of ADR?

### **Recommendations:**

- Do something that in the ADRA initiative has been identified as a possible improvement or weakness.
- Demonstrate through real cases the value of cross-disciplinary, cross-domain, cross-sectoral and cross-community actions.

2. What factors are going to determine how successful the organisation is in enticing industry buy-in?

### **Recommendations:**

- Focus on activities that are 100% in line with industry priorities, and if not, make sure you provide 100% funding.
- Remove redundant activities, and increase efficiency through synergies. Adra-e should help clearly delineate the advantages of such integration for each community and the different stakeholders, and set up concrete KPIs to measure the contribution to such integration of each action taken.

## WP1 – Support the community and the implementation of the SRIDA

1. How to generate critical mass to durably bootstrap community convergence?

E.g. Focus on few first movers, or “convert” established communities?

### **Recommendations:**

- Provide something the community needs and is only accessible there. Make joining easy.
- Identify potential first movers at the formal gatherings and establish communication channels with established communities to capture their strategy and their concerns for further development

3. How to best set roadmap priorities?

- a. How to reunite strategy and focus, with consensual nature of partnership
- b. How to balance long-term with short/medium-term objectives, ambition with pragmatics

### **Recommendations:**

- Focus on priorities of the target audience
- Synergies should be build relying on basic communities (ELLIS, CLAIRE, euRobotics, EurAI, etc.). Participation of Adra-e in their events and meeting their most relevant and representative actors to gather knowledge and understanding of each community.
- The value of preparing a technological roadmap resides in its process, gathering key stakeholders, working them together and eventually finding common interests and creating a sense of community

## WP2 –Awareness and Coordination between European ADR Initiatives

1. Could you point out potential additional venues for cross-project workshops/exhibition collocation?

### **Recommendations:**

- Mapping initiatives is a first step. The next step would be organizing brainstorming-type workshops testing with different combinations of participants.

## WP3 – ADR Awareness Centre

1. How to move forward with this activity group?
2. How to best define consumers and consumer trust indicators?
3. How to approach the legal aspects of labeling exercise?

### **Recommendations:**

- More focus should be made on setting and achieving KPIs than on the activities. Operationalize objectives and activities such as “Engaging with stakeholders”

-Create convergence with ADR by engaging people with very few skills to avoid digital divides

-increased collaboration with other WPs

#### WP4 - Boosting the adoption of AI technology

1. Do you have any advice on which topics relevant to the 3 ADR communities the upcoming European Convergence Summits should focus on?
2. Could you offer suggestions on how to better identify and appoint an SME envoy to be validated by ADRA?

#### **Recommendations:**

- Focus should be made on what has the attention of many: Generative AI and robotics / Ethical or responsibility aspects / Healthcare growing needs/ Redesigning the healthcare services

#### WP5 - Standardisation and regulation

1. What are your thoughts about the global approach to boost contribution to standards? Do you see any room for improvements?
2. Do you foresee in your network any stakeholders or categories of stakeholders missing in our experts' groups?

#### **Recommendations:**

-Provide a report on all relevant existing standards


-OECD and GPAI could be associated. Also sharing with the ADRA community information on the content of the Convention on AI under preparation by the Committee on AI at the Council of Europe.

## 4. Conclusion

The recommendations provided by the Advisory Board members will be taken into account to further improve the work performed by Adra-e. The next Advisory Board meetings are foreseen in September 2024 and June 2025.

Annex 1: Presentation to the Advisory Board WP1 to WP5

**WP 1: Support the community and the implementation of the SRIDA**




### Cross-community workshops and ADR Forum


**Objective:** reduce fragmentation by stimulating exchange between stakeholder communities

- **5 (experimental) cross-community workshops** around
  - Shared grand-challenges (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals)
  - Cross-fertilization of communities (e.g. co-location with other events)
  - Shared application domain (e.g. Transport and mobility)
- **AI, Data Robotics Forum (ADRF)** with a focus on
  - Developing a visionary, and strategy for the partnership (day 1)
  - Building a community through workshops (day 2)


ERF – march '23



EBDVF – oct '23




ADRF – nov '23



+ People are motivated, find exchange “refreshing”, get inspired by ambition and grand-challenges, reach convergence on non-technical challenges

- Reality kicks in: Finding common ground takes time and investment




### Development of the Adra Strategic Research Innovation and Deployment Agenda (SRIDA)

**Objective:** Towards a methodology for developing a consensual SRIDA ensuring balance and representation of all relevant stakeholders

SRIDA development process (starting September 2022) :

- Survey (Nov – Dec 2022)
- 10 pager identifying priorities (March 2023)
- Big ticket sections (September 2023)
- 40 page SRIDA (Nov – Jan 2024)




+ Well functioning editing board, Starting from scratch, Coherency with Networks of Excellence

- ADR Communities contribute in silos

*discussed and refined with stakeholders (workshops, webinars, written feedback)*

## WP2 –Awareness and Coordination between European ADR Initiatives





### Objectives

- To raise awareness between ADR communities of major relevant activities being implemented as European initiatives.
- To identify and capitalize on the synergies between relevant European and national initiatives.
- To support the identification of the most promising cross-disciplinary application-driven research topics and facilitate the emergence of new initiatives in close interaction and collaboration with WP1 (Task 1.1).

### Mapping of ADR initiatives

- Analysis of existing/running mapping studies in the ADR domains
- Initial interviews with experts
- Methodology developed and agreed
- Initial pool of data collected
- User-centred **service** development

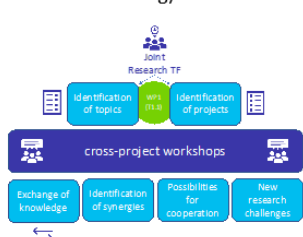



### Coordination & Awareness

- Initial core of Joint Task Force set up (representatives of euRobotics, BDVA, CLAIRE, AI-MATTERS, EIT Digital, AI4M cluster, etc.)
- Cross-project workshop series designed
- Projects as use-cases, application domain specific
- 1st workshop planning started (target: around April 2024, topic: ADR for Manufacturing)

### ADR Exhibition & Foresight Panel

- Concepts of Exhibition and Foresight Panel
- Initial set of project cases (demonstrators) identified and contacted
- Light-weight exhibition at ADRF 2023
- Targets for 2024 defined




**Question:**

- Could you point out potential additional venues for cross-project workshops/exhibition collocation?

WP3: ADR Awareness Centre










**ADR Awareness Day (annual event)**





**ADR AWARENESS DAY SEMINAR**

AI TRUST LABEL FOR AI SOLUTIONS      MODERATORS


ROBERTA CALEGARI    ANDREAS HAUSCHKE    CATHERINE MÜLLER    HENRI SOMMER    EDWARD CURRY

SKILLS, ETHICAL, AND SOCIETAL EXTERNALITIES OF ADR

BAJRA IMAM    COLIN VAN NOORT    JOSEPHIN ROSEN    FREDRIK HENITZ

**Activity Group (Experts and non-experts)**  
**Delphi Method for obtaining consensus on the AI Trust requirements and trust indicators**



I seek your advice on the following:

- How to move forward with this activity group?
- How to best define consumers and consumer trust indicators? And
- how to approach the legal aspects of labeling exercise?



## WP4: Boosting the adoption of AI technology

### WP4 - Boosting the adoption of AI technology

**Build bridges between ADR disciplines and facilitate the co-construction of proposals for implementing an industrial strategy in ADR**

- Focus topic for the **confluence of ADR** and key stakeholders have been identified
- **European Convergence Summit** to be held on how the ADR technologies combined can contribute to **reduce CO2 emissions**
- Converging contributions from ADR communities on this topic to provide valuable **insight to EU decision-makers**

**Support the execution of the SME strategy within AI-based domains and boost bottom-up knowledge sharing between European ADR AI-tech ecosystems**

- Productive regional ecosystems have been identified and key components that add value to them have been mapped in a **Regional Ecosystem Cartography**
- Regional Ecosystem events for key figures to **share success stories** from local public-private partnerships

### WP4 - Boosting the adoption of AI technology

**Support the innovation-friendly procurement outlined by the SME strategy and increase awareness of the benefits of ADR in procurement processes**


- Key organisations involved in innovation in public and private sectors through procurement have been identified in a **Procurement Cartography**
- The value of **Procurement Clauses of AI** (Living-in.EU together with DG GROW), as well as their **potential adoption at EU level**, discussed in a dedicated workshop within ADRF
- Workshop with focus on **building equity between SMEs and procurers** to be held
- Identify relevant SMEs to set up an **SME envoy** approved by ADRA to voice their opinion and reach policy-makers

**Facilitate the adoption of ADR technologies in Member States and deepen knowledge between national strategies**

- Exemplary **effective ecosystem models** to be selected
- Interviews with relevant ecosystems stakeholders to be conducted
- Different approaches per Member State to be analysed
- Events to **foster coordination among national strategies** to be held



## WP5: Standardisation and regulation



AI, Data and Robotics ecosystem


### WP5 – Standardisation and Regulation

**Context: EU regulations on AI, Data, and Robotics**

- Urgency** for the production of **standards** to support the application of regulations, but current standardisation **efforts** are not sufficient to meet the deadlines.
- Complexity** of regulations and a large number of (coming) standards for their applications.

WP5 Objectives	Expected outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide <b>mechanisms</b> to facilitate stakeholder <b>engagement</b> for their contributions to <b>standards</b>.</li> <li>Support the ADR stakeholder community in the <b>comprehension of ADR regulations and standards</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An <b>easily accessible AI, Data &amp; Robotics pre-standardisation workspace</b> to facilitate the ADR stakeholder community <u>contribute</u> to the standardisation effort.</li> <li><b>Official channels</b> for ADRA to communicate ADR stakeholder community contributions to European and International Standardisation Organisations.</li> <li>A <b>comprehensive and sustainable AI, Data &amp; Robotics Standards Observatory</b> to serve for the ADR stakeholder community of standards <u>users</u> as an up to date guide of available standards.</li> </ul>

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AI, Data and Robotics ecosystem

### First Steps

- Building of the ADR-Prestandardisation mechanism
  - Establishment of the EUSEG-ADR (EU Standardisation Expert Group in ADR)
    - 15+ core members (from EC, CEN/CENELEC, ADRA, BDVA, EURobotics,...)
    - 150+ members from academia, industry, NoEs, EU projects ...
    - Monthly meetings to identify priorities of Standardisation Organisations. Create synergies between AI, Data and Robotics standards contributors.
  - Establishment of a Liaison with CEN/CENELEC JTC21
    - CEN/CENELEC JTC21 committee has been mandated by the European Commission to produce harmonized standards to support the AI Act.
- Production of first pre-standardisation content - Establishment of Activity Groups
  - Trustworthiness framework** - Existing approaches for Trustworthiness characterisation and Trustworthiness assessment methods. (draft transmitted to CEN/CENELEC - ready in Q1 2024)
  - AI Risks Management** – Guideline on how to ensure appropriate AI Risk Management and links with the AI Act. (ready in Q1 2024)
  - Leveraging the AI Act** - A comprehensive introduction to why risk-handling for AI is needed and what you need to do. Guideline illustrated by use-cases throughout an AI solution lifecycle and linked to the AI Act articles.
    - Communicated to CEN/CENELEC JTC21 and available on ADRA-e awareness center: <https://adra-e.eu/news/leveraging-ai-act>