

Croatian AI Association - CroAI.org

Croatia for the future of humanity

Mission

AI will be one of the main driving forces of change for the next 20 years. Our mission is to ensure that Croatia gives a significant contribution to the shaping of the world into a better place.

Vision

Croatia is a leading destination for exploring how human-centric AI innovation can benefit humanity.

Strategy

1. **Focus on human-centric AI**

- Human-centric AI - designing ways how smart machines integrate into the world of humans so that we find it empowering instead of demeaning
- It doesn't matter if it is a healthcare assistant who helps patient feel better or a robot who needs to coexist in a warehouse with people
- Let's acknowledge that some other countries are leaders in cloud infrastructure, AI hardware, ML algorithms and have access to the amount of data that is unthinkable to us

2. **The world's friendliest human-centric AI R&D environment**

- Branding our country as a place where innovative companies should develop and test their human-centric AI ideas
- A prerequisite is to create the fastest and most flexible AI developing environment in terms of regulations, prototyping opportunities, talent and incentives
- Focusing EU funds on enabling and motivating our institutions to create interfaces for companies who come here to do AI

3. **Concentrating human-centric AI talent in Croatia**

- Activating our non-engineering resources: designers, content creators, lawyers, teachers, doctors, linguists, sociologists...
- Activating our research capacities through creating a simple framework how AI researchers can collaborate with the AI industry
- Leverage the beauty of our country to organize events and create incubation hubs that will attract top talent from all around the world

Action plan - 3 levels, 11 initiatives

General public - awareness and inspiration

1. **"It is possible in Croatia" perception** - We need to create a general perception that it is possible to succeed in AI from Croatia. We plan to achieve this by presenting "success stories" all around Croatia in the form of meetups and conferences. To achieve this CroAI

partnered with Data Science Croatia community (1500 members), Artificial Intelligence community (1200 members) and will partner with all major media outlets.

2. **Bringing "real-life" AI education to schools and universities** - If we want effective AI education, at this moment because AI is still a very young field, it cannot be done without involving people who work on real problems in this field. It is important to find out how the AI industry can take an active role. (IRIM on high school and college level)
3. **Activating non-engineering talent** - Future of AI is in designing cohabitation between organic and artificial intelligence. If we don't want to miss the opportunity to create an environment where innovation is happening we need to start activating lawyers, politicians, doctors, designers, journalists, bakers, media experts, economists,...

Entrepreneurs, Science, Industry - collaboration and support

4. **Register of AI Companies** - Having up-to-date information about who are all the companies in the AI field is a prerequisite for all other activities.
5. **AI Business Think Tank** - Entrepreneurs helping entrepreneurs. We are not the competition, the whole world is our market. How to leverage our business networks, partnering on projects, sharing knowledge on financing, growing and motivating talent,... It is not possible to build a great company without building the whole industry around it. Networking events.
6. **Easy collaboration between AI startups and scientists** - At the moment it is painfully slow, very expensive and fairly complicated for entrepreneurs to collaborate with scientists. Making it fast, affordable and flexible is a first step in leveraging this potential.
7. **Motivating enterprises to collaborate with AI startups** - Most enterprises are having trouble with innovation. Startups are having problems with gaining traction. Croatia needs to incentivise enterprises to collaborate with startups on innovative AI projects.

EU, Government, Infrastructure - focus and flexibility

8. **Public data infrastructure: inspiration instead of fear** - We need to refocus from what can go wrong to what is possible if we succeed. Forcing open data policies and moving public services to cloud are good steps towards creating a competitive innovation environment.
9. **R&D friendly legal framework** - Croatia needs to create a legal environment where it is very easy to do AI proof-of-concepts. Innovation should not be stopped during incubation. This should help Croatian companies with export potential but also attract foreign companies to do R&D in Croatia.
10. **Croatian AI Moonshot Factory** - Inspired by successful DARPA initiatives, and new EU JEDI initiative Croatia should create a fund and a support structure for larger initiatives in fields like healthcare, education, governance or agriculture.
11. **Clear AI positioning within EU** - Croatia needs to have a clear AI positioning within EU. We are too small to be experts in everything related to AI. Smart specialization will help to build expertise and to increase confidence in collaboration with Croatian startups. We should follow the example of Slovenia who positioned themselves as one of the world's blockchain innovation hubs.