Artificial Intelligence standardisation
Inclusiveness Newsletter

Edition 12 – December 2025

The inclusiveness Newsletter aims at facilitating a large participation of all stakeholders to the preparation of European standards on Artificial Intelligence (AI). It shares updated information on the landscape of standardisation activities in international bodies: the European Union, CEN-CENELEC Joint Technical Committee (JTC) 21, ISO-IEC Technical Committees, namely ISO-IEC JTC1 SC42 on AI, and other fora.

The writers try to be as accurate and factual as possible and the contents are reviewed by the CEN CENELEC JTC 21 Task Group Inclusiveness. However, this newsletter is not binding and should not be considered as representing the official positioning of the bodies it quotes.

ETUC, the European Trade Union Confederation is providing secretariat and contact services for the newsletter. You may register to the distribution list here. Any other correspondence should be addressed to TG_Inclusiveness@etuc.org.

All issues are also available on line:

- JTC 21 website: www.jtc21.eu
- CEN CENELEC JTC 21 LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8793224/
- ETUC: https://www.etuc.org/en/artificial-intelligence-standardisation-inclusiveness-newsletter

All ongoing standardisation projects are subject to confidentiality requirements. For detailed information regarding any of the standards mentioned in this newsletter, we encourage you to contact your respective national standardisation body.

News from the European Union

European Commission presents its Omnibus proposal for simpler digital rules

On 19 November, the European Commission unveiled a new package of measures aimed at reducing administrative and compliance burdens for European businesses, enabling them to devote more time to innovation and scaling up.

The proposal includes innovation-friendly rules for AI to ensure that the efficient implementation of the AI Act delivers benefits for society, safety and the protection of fundamental rights. Recognising that clear guidance and practical support are crucial for the rollout of any new legislation — including the AI Act — the Commission proposed to link the entry into application of the rules governing high-risk AI systems to the availability of support tools, including harmonised standards. As a result, providers and deployers of high-risk AI systems will only have to apply the rules for high-risk AI systems once the necessary support tools and standards are in place.

The initiative also introduces targeted amendments to the AI Act, including simpler rules, opportunities for real-world testing, and centralised oversight of AI systems. It is expected that this package will not significantly affect the ongoing standardisation work under CEN-CENELEC JTC 21.

The digital omnibus legislative proposals will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council for adoption.

See https://commission.europa.eu/news-and-media/news/simpler-digital-rules-help-eu-businesses-grow-2025-11-19_en

EU AI service desk goes live

The EU AI Service Desk became operational in October, providing stakeholders with a direct and accessible channel to address questions on the AI Act to the AI Office. Queries may be submitted in any official EU language and require an EU Login account, which can be created easily and free of charge. After submission, an acknowledgement is sent by email. The Service Desk's reply, as well as any further follow-up, is also delivered via email, ensuring a user-friendly support process for all stakeholders.

See: https://ai-act-service-desk.ec.europa.eu/en/ai-act-service-desk

Code of practice on AI-generated content

On 5 November, the European Commission initiated work on a Code of Practice on the marking and labelling of AI-generated content. This voluntary instrument is intended to support providers of generative AI systems in meeting their transparency obligations under Articles 50(2) and 50(4) of the AI Act.

The Code will encourage the consistent marking of AI-generated material — including synthetic audio, images, video and text — in formats that are machine-readable and suitable for detection. It will also guide deployers who use deepfakes or other AI-generated content in clearly disclosing AI involvement, especially when communicating information of public interest.

See https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-launches-work-code-practice-marking-and-labelling-ai-generated-content?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

CEN CENELEC Joint Technical Committee (JTC) 21

CEN CENELEC JTC 21 plenary meeting

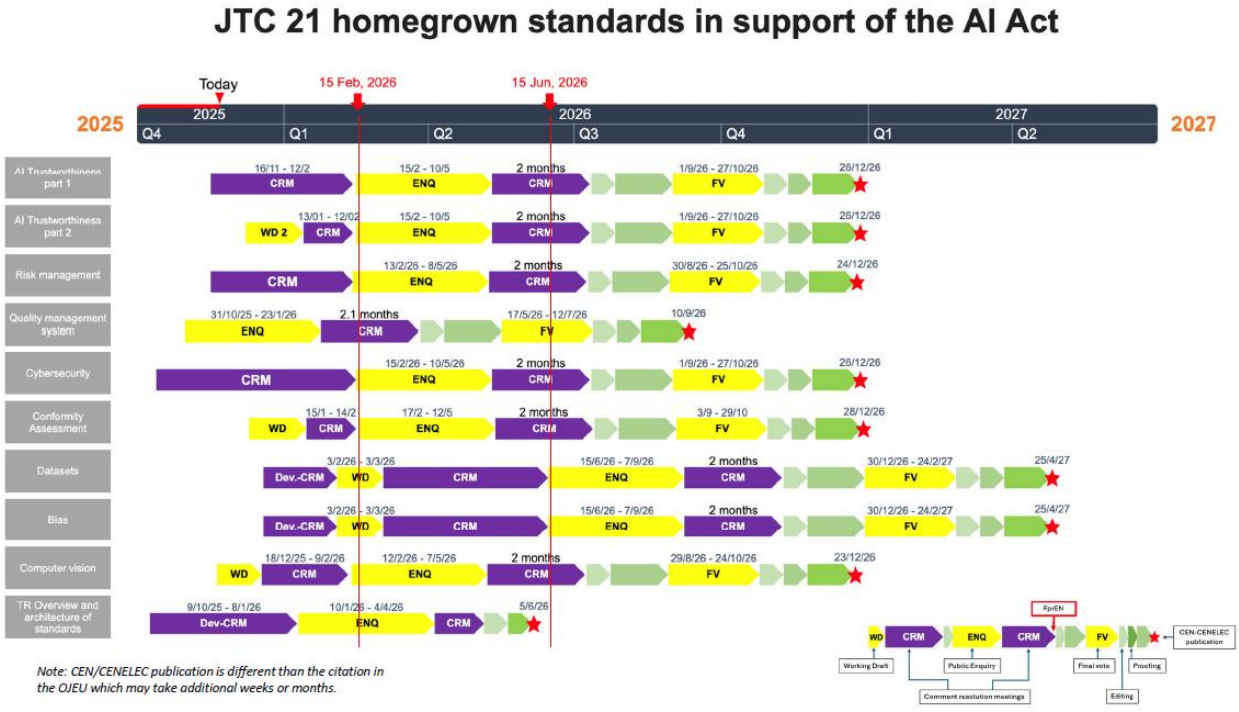
The 13th plenary meeting of CEN-CENELEC JTC 21 took place in Copenhagen from 18 to 21 November, bringing together around 200 registered participants from 22 European countries, as well as observers from Japan and Canada. Civil society was represented by ANEC (consumers), ETUC (trade unions), SBS (SMEs) and several non-profit organisations, including Equinet, the 5Rights Foundation and ForHumanity. Additional non-profit actors, such as representatives of SaferAI, attended as part of their national delegations.

During the meeting, DG CONNECT reiterated the tight timelines for the delivery of standards supporting the AI Act. Commission representatives noted that the significant delays encountered so far are largely linked to a shortage of technical expertise and expressed support for recent CEN-CENELEC Technical Board decisions aimed at accelerating progress. They also confirmed that the Commission will conduct HAS assessments — the checks determining whether a standard is eligible for harmonisation — for all mandated standards before their submission to Public Enquiry.

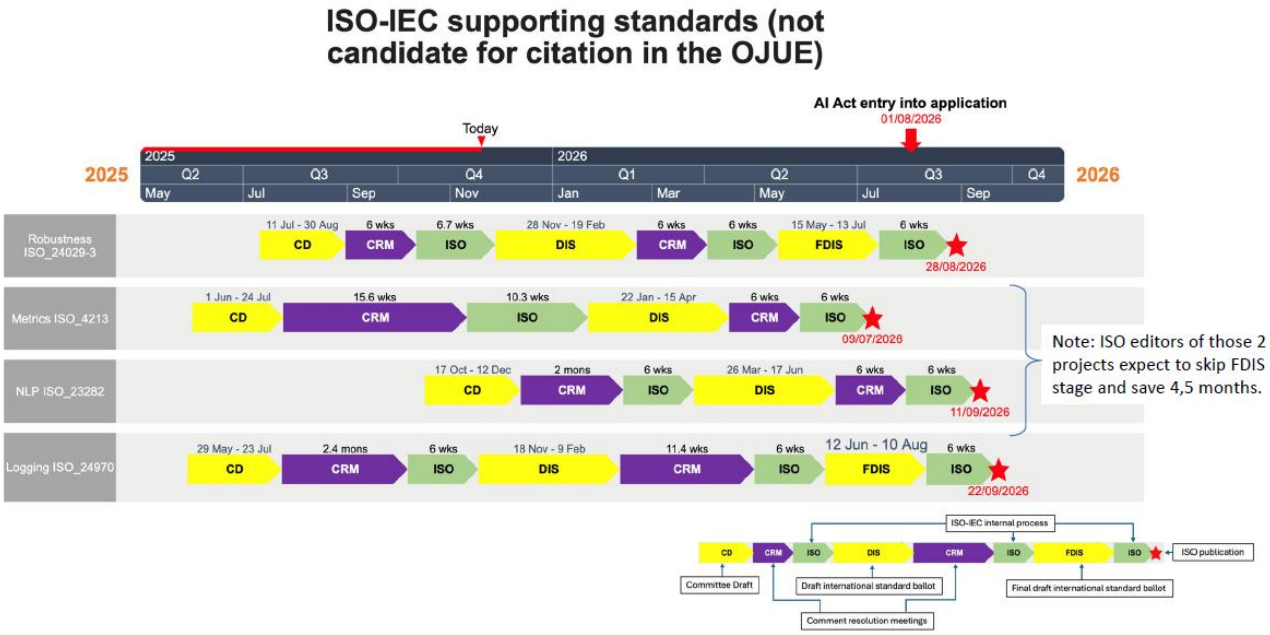
DG CONNECT further provided information on the Commission's Omnibus package (see above) and indicated that guidance is being prepared on the reporting of serious incidents under the AI Act.

Delivery calendar for delivery of the standards in support of the implementation of the AI Act

A new calendar was presented during the Copenhagen plenary, built on the principle that comment resolution phases will be strictly timeboxed. The timelines shared at the meeting reflected the situation at the time of presentation; however, they are subject to regular updates to account for progress within the JTC 21 working groups.



JTC21 assumptions about the timing of supporting ISO-IEC standards:



WD = Working Draft. ENQ = Enquiry. CRM: Comments Resolution Meetings. FV: Final Validation

The Public Enquiry procedure enables all stakeholders from a CEN-CENELEC member country to provide comments on draft standards, even if they are not members of their national standards organisation. Practical information on accessing the draft text and submitting comments is available on the website of the relevant national standardisation body.

Please note that the duration of national public consultation periods may differ across countries and, in some cases, may close prior to the overall deadline. Stakeholders are therefore encouraged to verify the applicable timetable without delay.

WG1 Strategic Advisory Group

- The Inclusiveness Task Group reported on the outcomes of its survey of JTC 21 participants, examining elements such as country representation, gender balance, stakeholder interests, experience in standardisation, time commitments, and levels of familiarity with the AI Act as well as with health, safety and fundamental-rights considerations. Building on these findings, the Task Group presented a series of proposals aimed at strengthening inclusiveness across the work of JTC 21.
- **Technical Report (TR) on the Overview and Architecture of Standards.** Enquiry expected early 2026. This TR is intended to equip organisations for the forthcoming publication of harmonised standards under the AI Act. In view of potential delays in the availability of such standards, the document will offer insight into the expected structure and content, provide essential

terminology and conceptual material, and provide guidance on the technical nature and type of requirements—ranging from design and development processes to monitoring and documentation obligations.

- Technical coherence forum: The TG anticipate technical coherence issues that could lead to inconsistencies, gaps and overlaps across WGs deliverables. The TG has agreed on the following categories:
  - Cross-WG/TG technical issues and topics.
  - Identification of common terminology where gaps or inconsistencies have been observed across projects. Detecting new gaps by analysing the wording used in provisions within respective projects.
  - Working at a technical level on specific examples to assess the routing of provisions from one project to the other.

WG2 Operational aspects

- **prEN 18286 AI – Quality management system for EU AI Act regulatory purposes** is the first document part of the EU standardisation request going to Public Enquiry. Closing date: 22 January 2026.

This document specifies the requirements and provides guidance for the definition, implementation, maintenance and improvement of a quality management system for organizations that provide AI systems.

- **prEN ISO/IEC 42001 - Artificial intelligence – Management system** has been circulated for enquiry from 20 November 2025 to 12 February for direct adoption, as the management system developed within ISO/IEC JTC1/SC42. ISO/IEC 42001 does not cover all quality management requirements of the AI Act. Accordingly, EN 18286 is expected to fulfil the complete set of regulatory requirements and to serve as the EU harmonised standard in this domain.

- **Risk Management (RM).** An intensive review of more than 400 Reconsideration Requests is being completed together with a review of the annexes to the main body of the document. The scope is being reviewed to ensure clarity regarding the entities to which it applies. Target date to finish the draft: mid-December.

In 2026, WG2 will start working on a Risk Catalogue project, building on earlier contributions that had been set aside in order to expedite the development of the Risk Management standard.

Conformity assessment framework: the editorial team has been relaunched. A draft is expected to be issued in December, with a view to entering Public Enquiry by February 2026. This deliverable will address the conformity assessment requirements laid down in Article 43 of the AI Act.

WG3 Engineering aspects

- **AI system Logging** (led by ISO/IEC as ISO/IEC DIS 24970**)** is in the enquiry phase, with the consultation closing on **10 February 2026**. This document describes common capabilities, requirements and a supporting information model for logging of events in AI systems.

- **Assessment of the robustness of neural networks — Part 3: Methodology for the use of statistical methods** (led by ISO/IEC as ISO/IEC 24029-3*).* Draft International Standard (DIS) ballot open.

This document provides methodology for the use of statistical methods to assess robustness properties of neural networks. The document focuses on how to select, apply and manage statistical methods to assess robustness properties.

- **ISO 23281 Overview of AI tasks and functionalities related to natural language processing** and
- **ISO 23282 Evaluation methods for accurate natural language processing systems**

Committee draft consultations until 12 December.

ISO 23281 describes the concept of AI task as applied to natural language. It proposes a landscaping of the AI tasks related to the analysis or generation of natural language, as well as other language related functionalities that are associated to those AI systems. It identifies existing and competing terminologies, co-existing variants of the same tasks and functionalities, and how specific tasks can be affected by language diversity in terms of their role or their challenges.

ISO 23282 specifies the evaluation of natural language processing systems, in the sense of measuring the quality of a system's results to assess its functional suitability. It provides a definition of evaluation methods for those systems, together with guidance on how to select, implement and interpret those evaluation methods. This document covers quantitative metrics as well as other evaluation methods.

- **pr EN18281 Accurate computer vision** and **prEN 18288 Taxonomy of AI tasks in computer vision.**

Working draft consultations until 17 December.

EN 18281 specifies the evaluation of computer vision systems, in the sense of measuring the quality of a system's results to assess its functional suitability. It provides a definition of evaluation methods for those systems, together with guidance on how to select, implement and interpret those evaluation methods.

EN 18288 describes a taxonomy of the AI tasks related to computer vision, including tasks pertaining to either the analysis or generation of images and videos. It identifies existing and competing terminologies, as well as co-existing variants of the same tasks.

- **Datasets:** Work in progress. Working draft expected by late 2025, early 2026. More contributions needed.

This document provides guidance and requirements for the creation and management of datasets in the context of AI, including design choices, data collection and preparation. It defines metrics and methodology to assess dataset quality characteristics such as representativeness, relevance, completeness and correctness.

- **Bias**: Work in progress. Working draft expected by late 2025, early 2026

This document defines concepts, measures and requirements for assessment and treatment of bias in AI systems. This includes bias unwanted by the AI Provider and AI Deployer according to their specification of the AI system, in the context of the AI Act

WG4 Foundational and societal aspects

- Trustworthiness standards. The pace for the following 2 standards part of the EU standardisation request on AI is significantly speeding up. Two Committee Internal Ballots were being launched at the time of writing this Newsletter.
    - **prEN 18229-1 AI trustworthiness framework – Part 1: Logging, transparency and human oversight** is expected to go to enquiry on 23 January 2026.
    - **prEN 18229-2 AI trustworthiness framework – Part 2- accuracy and robustness of AI systems.** is expected to go to enquiry on 11 February 2026.
    - **prEN 18274 Competence requirements for professional AI ethicists**: enquiry closed on 11 December 2026.
- Work in progress
    - **Sustainable Artificial Intelligence – Guidelines and metrics for the environmental impact of artificial intelligence systems and services**:
    - **Guidance for upskilling organisations on AI ethics and social concerns**
    - **Guidelines on tools for handling ethical issues in AI system life cycle**
    - **Impact assessment in the context of the EU Fundamental Rights**
    - **Guidance on application of Risk Management in Critical digital Infrastructure**

WG5 Cybersecurity aspects

The European Commission has reviewed the working draft **Cybersecurity specification for AI systems** and identified a series of improvements required for the document to meet the conditions for adoption as a harmonised standard capable of conferring a presumption of conformity under the AI Act.

In response, the drafting team is undertaking a comprehensive redrafting exercise, with the objective of issuing an updated version before Christmas. The subsequent comment-resolution phase is expected to run until the end of January 2026.

ISO/IEC JTC1 SC42

Inclusiveness Newsletter No.11 provided a detailed overview of the work of SC42 following its plenary meeting in October. In this edition, only new or completed ballots will be mentioned.

ISO/IEC 12792:2025. Transparency taxonomy of AI systems has been published

This document specifies a taxonomy of information elements to assist AI stakeholders with identifying and addressing the needs for transparency of AI systems. The document describes the semantics of the information elements and their relevance to the various objectives of different stakeholders.

ISO/IEC 22989:2022/Amd1 — AI concepts and terminology — Amendment 1: Generative AI

ISO/IEC 23053:2022/Amd 1: Framework for AI Systems Using Machine Learning (ML) — Amendment 1: Generative AI

Both amendments, which complete the initial key standards on generative AI, have been approved with comments.

ISO/IEC CD 25029 – AI enhanced nudging mechanisms

The Committee Draft has been approved with comments.

This document provides definitions, concepts, and guidelines to address AI-enhanced nudging mechanisms by organisations. This standard aims to support organisations to deal with AI-enhanced nudging mechanisms in alignment with existing AI standards. “AI-enhanced nudging mechanisms” are a sub category of digital nudges and which are enhanced by AI systems. It provides use-cases to illustrate AI-enhanced nudging mechanisms. It provides guidelines and requirements for designing responsible AI-enhanced nudging mechanisms.

ISO/IEC 42105 – Guidance for human oversight of AI systems.

The ballot for this draft international standard opened on 24 November and will close on 16 February 2026.

This document provides guidance on human control and monitoring of AI systems, which is referred to as human oversight

ISO/IEC 42007 - High-level framework and guidance for the development of conformity assessment schemes for AI systems.

The project is jointly developed with ISO CASCO. Committee Draft Consultation opened on 20 November and will close on 29 January 2026.

This document provides a high-level framework and guidance for the development and operation of conformity assessment schemes, including certification schemes, for AI systems.

EN ISO/IEC 42102 - Taxonomy of AI system methods and capabilities

The Committee Draft has been approved with comments.

This document provides a framework of descriptors to support the consistent characterization of AI system methods and capabilities. The framework helps AI stakeholders describe AI systems and have a common understanding of them. The project is jointly developed with CEN CENELEC JTC 21with ISO/IEC lead.

ISO/IEC 42109 – Use cases of human-machine teaming

The Committee Draft is under ballot until 26 February 2026.

This document provides the use cases of human-machine teaming, which refers to human interaction with machine intelligence capabilities to enable problem solving and successful task completion. The use cases represent the basic and multiple relationships, as well as evolution of relationships between human and machine (AI application).

For a

ANEC webinar on vulnerabilities

ANEC, the European Consumer Voice in Standardisation, organised an open webinar on Consumer Vulnerabilities and AI Act Standards. This took place on 4 December. Together with speaker Malcolm Fisk, Professor of Ageing and the Lifecourse at University of Central Lancashire and ANEC expert in CEN-CENELEC-JTC21 (WG1) they explored how AI is reshaping the relationship between consumers and the organisations that serve them. More details available on ANEC's webpage.

https://www.anec.eu/press/events/1109-anec-public-webinar-consumer-vulnerabilities-and-ai-act-standards

CEN CENELEC webinar on Annex Z

CEN CENELEC organised a training webinar on 1 December to present the process of Annex Z to Annex III organisations. For a given standard, Annex Z cross references the clauses of the standard to the relevant EU regulation(s). It is a mandatory document for a future harmonised standard to be published in the Official Journal of the EU.

The recording and the presentations are available at:

https://experts.cenelec.eu/trainings-materials/events/2025/2025-12-01-webinar-training-on-the-annex-z-to-the-annex-iii-organizations/

Workshops on High Risk AI systems

The European Commission (DG CNECT – AI Office) is organising three online workshops on the classification of high-risk AI systems. These sessions will bring together experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to exchange perspectives, identify challenges, and explore solutions related to the safe and responsible development of high-risk AI systems. At the time of publication, registration for all three workshops has closed. More information will be given in Newsletter No. 13.

- The first workshop on 10 December focusses on products covered by Annex I of the AI Act and related horizontal concepts. Discussion will address practical questions around the classification of AI systems as high-risk, conformity assessment procedures, substantial modifications and testing for products with AI components and AI products placed on the EU market.
- The second workshop on 11 December will examine the high-risk classification of AI systems deployed in critical infrastructure, education, employment and essential public and private services.
- The third workshop on 12 December will look at high-risk classification of AI systems for biometrics, law enforcement, migration and justice.

The input gathered through the workshops will feed into the Commission's forthcoming guidelines on the high-risk classification of AI systems.

Nice to know, useful to read

AFNOR initiative on training for JTC members. Feedback wanted

AFNOR, the French National Standardisation Body, is developing - with the financial support of EISMEA (European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency) - comprehensive training materials intended for current and prospective members of JTC 21. The aim is to provide high-quality onboarding and upskilling resources that reflect the realities and needs of those engaged in standardisation work.

To ensure that these materials are both relevant and effective, AFNOR is seeking input on stakeholders' experiences with standardisation, including any challenges or obstacles encountered. This feedback will directly inform the development of tailored, user-centred resources. AFNOR would therefore be grateful if you could take a few minutes to respond to the questionnaire available at the following link:

https://framaforms.org/questionnaire-barriers-and-needs-related-to-standardisation-1760702398

Whether or not you are currently active in JTC 21, AFNOR warmly welcomes your input. Every perspective counts in building the best possible starter pack for future contributors.

https://jtc21.eu/ai-standardisation-starter-pack-help-us-shape-the-future-onboarding-of-ai-standardisation-experts/

Guide on Publicly Available Specifications (PAS) by Danish standards

Danish Standards whole series of DS PAS 2500 guides on Practical specifications for Artificial Intelligence is now available in English. These documents offer practical guidance for organisations and professionals working with artificial intelligence (AI). The series promotes responsible AI adoption and skill development, with a strong emphasis on transparency, bias management, decision support, and AI literacy. These guides reflect developments in European legislation, particularly the EU AI Act, and offer actionable advice based on both regulatory frameworks and industry best practices.

Overview of DS PAS 2500 Parts:

Part 1: Transparency: offers guidance for achieving and assessing transparency in AI and non-AI systems used for automated decision-making.

Part 2: Decision Support in Public Case Management: provides a checklist to guide the use of AI in public case management.

Part 3: Bias: introduces a method for identifying and managing biases in the design and development of IT systems and processes, including AI and non-AI decision-support systems, to foster transparency and awareness for designers, developers, users, and stakeholders without prescribing normative solutions.

Part 4: AI Literacy: focuses on the knowledge and skills required to successfully implement and use AI, aimed at organisations procuring or deploying AI systems..

See: https://www.ds.dk/en/about-standards/ds-pas-2500-guides

ISO policy brief: Harnessing international standards for responsible AI development and governance

This policy brief explains how consensus-based international standards transform high-level AI principles into practical requirements for the development of safe, transparent, trustworthy and responsible AI systems. Mapping the global policy landscape, it demonstrates how international standards support trust, quality, risk management, data governance, sustainability and conformity assessment across the AI lifecycle - helping policymakers to move from ambition to implementation, while reducing technical and regulatory fragmentation and enabling market access.

See: https://www.iso.org/publication/PUB100498.html

Academic guide to AI Act compliance

The Academic Guide to AI Act Compliance guide (in English) has been prepared by French academic researchers and is freely available. It aims at demystifying the EU AI Act's complex network of concepts and requirements and supporting organisations in their compliance journey. In particular, the expert contributions adopt a compliance-focused perspective, which is likely to be of significant interest and utility to concerned industry stakeholders, as well as operators in public administration, academia, and civil society.

The Guide draws on the structure established by ISO standards on management systems to construct an action plan for AI Act compliance, consisting of four main parts: Scope of the Compliance Scheme; Major High-Risk AI Systems Requirements; Compliance Tools and Processes (; Compliance Evaluation in Practice .

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See: https://hal.science/hal-05365570v1

Ends.