

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2020/2017(INI)	Procedure completed
Artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector		
Subject		
3.30.01 Audiovisual industry and services		
3.30.06 Information and communication technologies, digital technologies		
3.40.06 Electronics, electrotechnical industries, ICT, robotics		
4.40.01 European area for education, training and lifelong learning		
4.45 Common cultural area, cultural diversity		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Culture and Education	 VERHEYEN Sabine	17/12/2019
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 GARCÍA DEL BLANCO Ibán	
		 JOVEVA Irena	
		 KOLAJA Marcel	
		 ANDERSON Christine	
		 MELBÄRDE Dace	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Internal Market and Consumer Protection	 VAN SPARRENTAK Kim	18/02/2020
 Legal Affairs	 DZHAMBAZKI Angel	18/02/2020	
 Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (Associated committee)	 KOVAŘÍK Ondřej	13/01/2020	
 Women's Rights and Gender Equality	 CARVALHO Maria da Graça	15/01/2020	

Key events

16/01/2020	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/01/2020	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
16/03/2021	Vote in committee		
19/04/2021	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0127/2021	
18/05/2021	Debate in Parliament		
19/05/2021	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/05/2021	Decision by Parliament	T9-0238/2021	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2020/2017(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CULT/9/02289

Documentation gateway

Committee opinion	IMCO	PE648.349	06/07/2020	EP	
Committee draft report		PE655.862	30/07/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE646.839	14/09/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	JURI	PE652.373	22/09/2020	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE658.907	08/10/2020	EP	
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE650.370	31/03/2021	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0127/2021	19/04/2021	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0238/2021	19/05/2021	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2021)507	22/09/2021	EC	

The European Parliament adopted by 623 votes to 12, with 61 abstentions, a resolution on artificial intelligence in education, culture and the audiovisual sector.

Members consider that the development, deployment and use of AI in the fields of education, culture and audiovisual media must fully respect the fundamental rights, freedoms and values enshrined in the EU treaties, in particular human dignity, protection of privacy and personal data, non-discrimination, freedom of expression and information, cultural diversity and intellectual property rights.

Education, culture and the audiovisual sector are areas where the use of AI and related technologies is sensitive, as they may affect fundamental rights and values. Members therefore stressed the importance of respecting ethical principles in these areas when developing, deploying and using AI and related technologies, including software and algorithms and the data they use and produce.

The Commission is invited to present a general regulatory framework, which applies to all applications of AI, and to complement it with sector-specific rules.

Education

Parliament stressed the importance of ensuring EU-wide mastery of basic digital and AI skills by developing training opportunities for teachers. The Commission is called upon to make digital skills, media literacy and AI skills priorities in its action plan, while paying particular attention to children and young people in precarious situations who need special support in the field of digital education.

Members called on the Commission to include education in the regulatory framework for high-risk AI systems, given the particularly sensitive nature of data on pupils, students and other learners. They stressed that the deployment of AI applications in the field of education must not only allow for the participation of educators, learners and society at large, but also take into account the needs of each and the expected benefits, in order to ensure the appropriate and ethical use of AI.

The Commission is invited to take into account AI and robotics initiatives in the educational field in its forthcoming legislative proposals on AI. For their part, Member States should invest in digital equipment for schools and use EU funds for this purpose.

Cultural heritage

Parliament stressed that AI technologies can play an important role in the preservation, restoration, documentation, analysis, promotion and management of tangible and intangible cultural heritage. AI technologies can increase the visibility of cultural diversity in Europe by offering cultural institutions new opportunities to create innovative tools to document cultural heritage sites and make them more accessible.

In this context, Members stressed the importance of exchanging best practices between Member States, educational and cultural institutions and other stakeholders.

Culture and creativity

The resolution stressed the need to establish a coherent vision of AI technologies within the cultural and creative sectors at EU level. Member States are invited to focus more on culture in their national AI strategies to ensure that the cultural and creative sectors choose to innovate and remain competitive, and to ensure the safeguarding and promotion of cultural diversity at EU level in the new digital context.

Members stressed the importance of clarifying the conditions for the use of copyright-protected content as input data (images, music, films, databases, etc.) and in the production of cultural and audiovisual output data, whether created by humans with the help of AI or generated autonomously by AI technologies. They called on the Commission and Member States to address the issue of AI-generated content and the challenges it poses for authorship and copyright infringement.

Audiovisual sector

AI is often used to enable automatic decision-making algorithms to deliver and organise the cultural and creative content presented to users. These algorithms are opaque to users.

Members called for recommendation algorithms and personalised marketing to be easy to explain and transparent, to enable consumers to understand these processes in a correct and complete way, and to ensure that personalised services are not discriminatory. Consumers should be informed when they interact with an automated decision process and their choices and behaviour should not be restricted.

The Commission is invited to establish a clear ethical framework for the use of AI-based technologies in the media to avoid all forms of discrimination and to ensure access to culturally and linguistically diverse content across the EU, based on responsible, transparent and inclusive algorithms, while respecting individual choices and preferences.

Online disinformation: deep-fakes

Parliament stressed the importance of ensuring online and offline media pluralism to guarantee the quality, diversity and reliability of the information available. The Commission is called upon to assess the impact of AI-related technologies in the creation of deep-fakes, to establish appropriate legal frameworks to govern their creation, production or distribution for malicious purposes, and to propose recommendations for action against any threat using AI against the principle of free and fair elections and democracy.