



Groupe d'experts pour le Centre de compétences en science des données (DSCC)

Rapport d'activité 2024

Pour mémoire, le groupe d'experts se compose d'un groupe défini de personnes qui représentent la science et la recherche, l'économie privée et la société civile. En règle générale, le Groupe d'experts du DSCC se réunit de manière bisannuelle.

En accord avec le Président du groupe d'experts, il a été décidé de ne pas prévoir de réunion en 2024 car les décisions du Conseil fédéral concernant i) la gouvernance et la coordination de l'IA au sein de l'administration fédérale a été repoussée de plusieurs mois (de juin à septembre 2024) et ii) la régulation de l'intelligence artificielle ne tomberait qu'à fin 2024. Ces décisions ayant un impact crucial sur les travaux du groupe d'experts, il a été décidé de ne pas réunir le groupe pour uniquement les informer et qu'en lieu et place une information écrite serait faite.

Les membres du groupe d'experts ont reçu une information détaillée des activités menées en 2024 par le DSCC avec un focus particulier sur les thématiques entrant dans le domaine d'intérêt du groupe d'experts (annexe 1).

La prochaine séance est agendée au 4 février 2025. Les thématiques suivantes seront abordées : i) Status update AI & Data Science at the federal level, ii) AI Governance for public administration et iii) Algorithmic Risk Assessment.

Neuchâtel, le 29.01.2025





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Information note for members of the DSCC expert group

Dear Sir or Madam,

Background

At our last expert group meeting, we discussed the issue of artificial intelligence (AI) governance within the federal administration, and in particular the role that our expert group should play in this context. The purpose of this information note is to tell you what has happened since our last meeting, and to outline the path forward.

Work completed

A number of activities have been carried out to address the issue of AI governance within the public administration in Switzerland.

1. Legislature plan

The Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA), on the recommendation of the FSO, proposed adding an objective and two measures to the 2023 - 2027 legislative plan that directly address the issue of AI. The Federal Council and then the Parliament accepted this proposal and validated the 2023 - 2027 legislative program (Appendix 1, pages 67 - 68 in the German-language version). From an implementation point of view of these two measures, the following mandates have been given by the Federal Council:

a) Analysis of the situation regarding the regulation of AI

By the end of 2024, the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) must submit a report in collaboration with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP) outlining the various options for regulating AI in Switzerland. Based on this report, the Federal Council will then decide how to proceed with AI regulation in Switzerland.

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b) Further development in the area of AI within the Federal Administration

In June 2024, the FDHA, and in particular the Federal Statistical Office (FSO), has submitted an evaluation report on the Competence Network for AI (CNAI). Based on the evaluation of the CNAI, this report (Appendix 2) examines the current governance of AI within the federal administration, as well as the cooperation with the Swiss cantons and municipalities, and proposes measures to strengthen governance of AI within the federal administration. The report proposes firstly that an organisational concept for strengthening AI governance be submitted to the Federal Council by the end of 2025, and secondly, that our expert group accompany the development of this concept, which will enable it to participate in the design of future AI governance within the federal administration.

2. Committee for Data Science and AI

The need for collaboration between the different levels of federalism in the field of data science and AI to avoid redundancies and create synergies is paramount. With this in mind, the Federal Council has mandated the FSO to set up this coordination. Two meetings have been held to date, bringing together representatives from the federal offices, the 26 cantons and the Federal Institutes of Technology (Appendix 3, pages 4 - 5). Work topics are currently being prioritized and will be presented at the next meeting, scheduled for the end of September 2024. The concrete work of the groups will then begin.

3. Swiss Community Day on Data

Since 2023, the FSO, in collaboration with the Digital Administration of Switzerland (DAS), has organized an annual Swiss Data Community Day. The 2024 edition will take place on December 3, 2024 in Bern and will be dedicated to the theme of data science and AI (Appendix 4). The meeting will bring together players from official statistics and the various committees whose work revolves around data, including our own. Several Keynotes and more than a dozen workshops related to data science and AI will be led by the Confederation, the cantons, the private sector and academia.

Next steps

The next meeting of our expert group is scheduled for September 24, 2024. It should follow on from the decisions to be taken by the Federal Council in the first half of 2024, and enable us on this basis to define how our expert group would concretely and regularly accompany the drafting of this organizational concept linked to AI governance (see point 1b) mentioned above) but also to redefine the hierarchical positioning of our expert group.

The Federal Council's decision initially expected in June was postponed and will hopefully be taken this August, and with no official mandate at present, it is preferable to move our next meeting to the second half of January 2025 (a Doodle will be sent out at the beginning of September).

Yours faithfully,

Bertrand Loison
Vice-director

Prof. em. Dr. Lothar Thiele
in his role of President of the DSCC Expert Group

Appendices:

1. Legislature plan (only available in Df/I)
2. Evaluation report on the CNAI (will be sent as soon as approved by the Federal Council)
3. Newsletter Beyond the horizon
4. Swiss Community Day on Data (only available in Df/I)