



CAIDP Update 2.21 (May 24, 2021) – *Slovenia, as EU President, to Highlight AI*

Slovenia will take on the Presidency of the European Union for the second half of 2021, in accordance with the system of rotating presidencies. In a recent interview, Boštjan Koritnik, Slovenia's digital minister said, “Slovenia puts artificial intelligence really high on the list and, being sincere, that's because we are very successful in the field.”

As reported in the [CAIDP Update 2.14](#), earlier this year Slovenia established the [International Research Center on Artificial Intelligence](#) in collaboration with UNESCO. At an event in March, Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, said, “The importance of IRCAI has become clear over the past six months, as the Centre has made decisive contributions to a new standard-setting instrument being prepared by UNESCO on the ethics of artificial intelligence.” The IRCAI has issued a [call for collaboration](#) with Member States, companies, NGOs, universities and government bodies around the world.

Slovenia is also a member of the [Global Partnership for AI](#), co-founded by Canada and France in conjunction with the launch of the OECD AI Principles and the G20 AI Guidelines.

Slovenia’s presidency comes at a key moment for the EU, following the introduction of the AI Regulation by the Commission last month, as well as several related proposals, including the Digital Services Act and the Digital Market Act. While those in the AI field have [raised concerns](#) about the use of facial recognition by police in Slovenia, a practice also opposed by the Council of Europe, ([CAIDP Update 2.05](#)) the country’s work with UNESCO also raises the possibility of a more global approach to AI regulation.

In related news, the Internal Markets Committee (IMCO) of the European Parliament has been designated to lead the Parliament’s review of AI regulation and to undertake negotiations with the European Commission and the European Council as part of a process known as the “trialogue.” The IMCO Committee has substantial expertise in consumer protection and product safety. But fundamental rights, a key focus of the proposed EU AI regulation, remains within the competency of the European Parliament’s committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). The LIBE committee has examined a range of AI-related, including the risk of AI in criminal law. ([CAIDP Update 1.8](#)).