



# The AI Act in brief

*The AI Act lays down rules for the deployment and development of artificial intelligence in the European Union – with the aim of taking advantage of opportunities without losing sight of risks. The rules entered into force in August 2024 and will be fully applicable as from August 2027.*

## Objectives of the AI Act

- **Fostering innovation:** the AI Act promotes the development and use of artificial intelligence in Europe.
- **Uniform rules:** the AI Act lays down a uniform legal framework for the whole of the EU internal market, enabling companies across Europe to operate under the same conditions.
- **Transparency and trust:** Klare Regeln, Transparenz und Verantwortlichkeit stärken das Vertrauen in KI-Technologien.
- **Safety and protection:** the AI Act protects people from the possible risks of AI applications, in particular where health, safety and fundamental rights such as democracy, the rule of law and environmental protection could be affected.

## Who is covered by the rules?

- **The rules apply to all companies, public authorities, organisations and other operators deploying or placing AI systems on the EU market.**
- The decisive factor is that the outputs of an AI system are used in the EU and therefore have an impact on people in the EU. This means that the rules apply irrespective of whether a company is located within the EU or in a third country.

## Key obligations

- Building AI literacy
- Conformity with relevant requirements for each AI system risk level
- Transparency obligations for certain AI systems to show users that they are interacting with AI or that content is AI-generated
- Compliance with quality, safety and risk management requirements, in particular for high-risk AI applications
- Documentation obligations and proof of conformity

## Exceptions to the rules

- Private use of AI systems
- AI systems developed and put into service for the sole purpose of scientific research and development
- Any research, testing or development activity regarding AI systems or AI models prior to their being placed on the market or put into service
- AI systems placed on the market or put into service exclusively for military, defence or national security purposes

# AI Service Desk

*The AI Service Desk of Germany is an independent contact point providing information about the AI Act. We support companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups, and other organisations in implementing the AI Act.*

## *What we offer:*

- ✓ **AI compliance compass:** An online tool to assess whether your AI system comes under the AI Act and, if so, in which risk level. The tool is a starting point, not a binding assessment.  
→ [bundesnetzagentur.de/ki-ck](https://bundesnetzagentur.de/ki-ck) (in German)
- ✓ **Guidance on AI literacy:** The AI Act requires providers and deployers of AI systems to ensure that any persons operating and using AI systems on their behalf have a sufficient level of AI literacy; this requirement became applicable at the beginning of February 2025. Information about how you can comply with this requirement can be found in our guidance note on AI literacy:  
→ [bundesnetzagentur.de/ki-kompetenz](https://bundesnetzagentur.de/ki-kompetenz) (in German)
- ✓ **Information about the innovation-friendly rules of the AI Act:** These rules include awareness-raising and training activities on the application of the AI Act, the establishment of AI regulatory sandboxes and the testing of high-risk AI systems in real world conditions outside AI regulatory sandboxes.
- ✓ **Events and latest news:** Information about the latest publications, consultations and events about AI and the AI Act.
- ✓ **Compact information about supplementary European guidelines, legislation and codes of practice:** These supplement the rules and provide detailed information about certain aspects of the AI Act such as the definition of AI systems or prohibited AI practices.
- ✓ **Information about AI regulatory sandboxes:** The sandboxes provide a controlled environment that facilitates the development, training, testing and validation of innovative AI systems. The learning outcomes from regulatory sandboxes are made available to all AI innovators.

*Full range of information at:*



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