

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

EDITION #1 | FEBRUARY 24

European Lighthouse of AI for Sustainability

ELIAS

Welcome to the February 2024 edition of the ELIAS Biannual Newsletter.

We're thrilled to share our progress, along with upcoming activities and collaboration opportunities. ELIAS, the European Lighthouse of AI for Sustainability, comprises 34 prestigious institutions from 17 countries across Europe, carefully selected to ensure both scientific excellence and diverse expertise. Our mission is ambitious: to harness the power of AI to confront monumental challenges such as climate change and energy crises, while also navigating the ethical and societal implications of AI development.

In this newsletter, we bring you the latest updates from the forefront of European AI research and innovation. share highlights of our past six months, including achievements, collaborations, and significant events. Additionally, we'll provide insights into our planned activities for the next six months, opportunities for engagement, and updates on our initiatives.

Join us on this journey as we strive to position Europe as a global leader in AI research, with a focus on sustainability, societal relevance, and individual well-being. Together, let's shape the future of AI for the advancement of society and the planet. Thank you for being part of the ELIAS community.

HIGHLIGHTS

»»» FIRST JOINT ELISE ELIAS FLAGSHIP WORKSHOP

• Together with [ELISE](#), we organised the First Joint Flagship Workshop, focusing on open-source foundation models and sciencepreneurship in Europe. Held in Frankfurt, Germany, the event aimed to empower the next generation of AI talent and foster innovation.

[Read more..](#)

»»» ELLIS WORKSHOP: MULTIMODAL FOUNDATION MODELS

• The ELIAS Consortium Members participated in a workshop exploring Multimodal Foundation Models, led by ELIAS Project Coordinator Nicu Sebe and Consortium Member Cees Snoek. This workshop delved into advancements and ethical considerations in artificial intelligence synthesis, contributing to responsible and sustainable AI development.

[Read more..](#)

»»» #ADRF23: A GLIMPSE INTO THE WORLD OF AI NOES

• The AI, Data, Robotics Forum 2023 (ADRF23) held on November 8th–9th, 2023, at the Inria Headquarters in Versailles, was a landmark event showcasing cutting-edge advancements in Generative AI for European society and industry. ELIAS proudly participated alongside esteemed European Networks of Excellence in AI & Robotics, presenting a joint booth facilitated by the VISION project.

[Read more..](#)

»»» AI EXCELLENCE LECTURE SERIES

• The ELIAS Consortium Members conducted online AI Excellence lectures as part of the International AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA), established by four ICT-48 networks (AI4Media, ELISE, HumanE-AI NET, TAILOR) and the VISION project to enhance top-tier AI education and research in Europe.

- **Dr. Josef Sivic** - Learning manipulation skills from instructional videos
- **Prof. Gustau Camps-Valls** - Hybrid & Causal Machine learning in the Earth sciences
- **Prof. Dr. Markus Reichstein** - Deep learning and Process Understanding for Data-Driven Earth System Science

[Check all the past events..](#)

ELIAS Consortium Members Spearhead Global AI Governance and Safety Efforts

Distinguished experts **Virginia Dignum**, a Professor at the Department of Computing Science, Umeå University, and **Petri Myllymäki**, a Full Professor at the Department of Computer Science of the University of Helsinki and Vice-director of Finnish Center for Artificial Intelligence, Aalto University, joined **the United Nations High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence**, marking a significant milestone for global AI governance efforts. Their inclusion, alongside other esteemed experts, promises to foster a diverse and comprehensive dialogue on AI governance, reflecting a joined effort towards **responsible AI development** on a global scale.

[Read more..](#)

Nuria Oliver, Director of ELLIS Alicante and Vice-President of ELLIS, has been selected to join an **International Scientific Expert Advisory Panel on Advanced AI Safety** tasked with providing expert insights for the **“International Scientific Report on Advanced AI Safety.”** This initiative highlights a concerted global endeavour to prioritise safety in AI development and deployment, laying the groundwork for informed decision-making and future **AI safety summits.**

[Read more..](#)

RESOURCES

ELIAS website has been live for the past four months, offering a comprehensive overview of our project's achievements and developments. We have now our [resources page](#) for the latest scientific publications, media resources, and upcoming releases of open-source software and datasets.

>>> SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

[read more](#)

>>> PUBLIC REPORTS

[read more](#)

>>> OPEN SOFTWARE & DATASET

[read more](#)

>>> MEDIA RESOURCES

[read more](#)

Dive into our ELIAS Scientific Publications for the last six months to discover noteworthy contributions, demonstrating our dedication to advancing AI research.

Putting Context in Context: the Impact of Discussion Structure on Text Classification

Authors: Nicolò Penzo, Antonio Longa, Bruno Lepri, Sara Tonelli, Marco Guerini

[access here](#)

Personalized Algorithmic Recourse with Preference Elicitation

Authors: Giovanni De Toni, Paolo Viappiani, Stefano Teso, Bruno Lepri, Andrea Passerini

[access here](#)

SpectralCLIP: Preventing Artifacts in Text-Guided Style Transfer from a Spectral Perspective

Authors: Zipeng Xu, Songlong Xing, Enver Sangineto, Nicu Sebe

[access here](#)

Improving Fairness using Vision-Language Driven Image Augmentation

Authors: Moreno D'Incà, Christos Tzelepis, Ioannis Patras, Nicu Sebe

[access here](#)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

>>> AIDA SEMESTER COURSE

Join the International [AI Doctoral Academy](#) (AIDA) for the upcoming semester course on "Statistical Methods for Machine Learning" led by Prof. Nicolo Cesa-Bianchi.



- Delve into the theoretical foundations and analysis of machine learning algorithms, emphasising mathematical principles crucial for understanding machine learning. Hosted by the Università degli Studi di Milano, this graduate-level course runs from March 4 to June 4, 2024.
- Participation is open to both AIDA and non-AIDA students, with a limited number of spots available for registration. [Read more..](#)

>>> CLAIRE X NOES AQUA



Join us on March 6th from 16:00 to 17:00 for the [CLAIRE All Questions Answered \(AQUA\)](#) Series, where we'll spotlight Women in AI. Esteemed female researchers will gather to discuss their triumphs and tribulations in navigating a predominantly male industry.

- Representing ELIAS, Elisa Ricci, Associate Professor at UniTrento DISI & Head of Research Unit - Deep Visual Learning at Fondazione Bruno Kessler - FBK will bring valuable perspectives and insights into the obstacles women encounter in #AI and strategies to empower young women in #STEM. [Tune in on YouTube](#) to be part of the conversation.
- This event is organised under CLAIRE by CLAIRE | Prague, CLAIRE | Zurich, VISION and Networks of Excellence Centres (NoEs), in particular: ELIAS, ENFIELD, euROBIN, AI4Media, HumanE-AI-Net

Elisa's expertise encompasses #computervision, #deeplearning, and #robotics perception. She is committed to advancing novel methodologies for extracting knowledge from visual and multi-modal data in diverse environments. With a focus on domain adaptation, continual learning, and self-supervised learning, she is dedicated to pushing the boundaries of innovation in her field.

OPPORTUNITIES

>>> #HHAi2024 CONFERENCE

- Get ready for the [Hybrid Human Artificial Intelligence](#) (HHAi2024), the third international conference focused on the symbiotic relationship between humans and Artificial Intelligent systems, amplifying human intelligence through cooperation.

- Taking place in Malmö, Sweden from June 10-14, 2024, this event promises a dynamic platform for academic discourse and collaboration. Prior to the conference, don't miss the inaugural HHAi Summer School, featuring workshops, tutorials, and more, open to students who will receive certificates upon participation.

- While submissions for the main track have closed, opportunities to contribute to Posters and Demos track are still available. [Read more..](#)



>>> ELLIS DOCTORAL SYMPOSIUM #EDS2024



- Save the date for the [ELLIS Doctoral Symposium](#) (#EDS2024), focusing on "AI & sustainability," taking place in Paris, France, from August 26 to 30. As the highlight of the year in the ELLIS PhD Program, EDS provides a platform for ELLIS PhD students and others to share insights on machine learning. This year's theme emphasises AI's role in sustainability. Expect poster sessions, keynote speakers, an industry fair, and more. Registrations open in early April at eds2024.github.io. Stay updated on our website and social media channels. [Read more..](#)

Stay up to date with ELIAS: Follow us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to stay informed about our activities, initiatives, and opportunities for engagement.

With kind regards,
ELIAS Team



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