



European Lighthouse of AI for Sustainability

D5.1 First Periodic Report on the Establishment of the ELIAS Alliance

Date: 27/08/2024





Project acronym	ELIAS
Project full title	European Lighthouse of AI for Sustainability
Project Coordinator	University of Trento (Italy)
Start date	01/09/2023
End date	31/08/2027
Grant agreement No.	101120237

Deliverable Title	D5.1 First periodic report on the ELIAS Alliance
Work package	WP5 – Entrepreneurship and Tech Transfer
Version	0.1
Deliverable Type	OTHER
Dissemination Level	PU
Leading Partner	UT
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Date of Delivery	27/08/2024
Submission Date	27/08/2024

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Document History

Version	Issue Date	Status	Changes	Contributor
0.1	14/07/2024	draft	V0.1 created.	Nina Peters (UT)
0.2	15/07/2024	pre-final	Preliminary review conducted.	Matthias Bethge (UT)
0.3	26/07/2024	pre-final	Updated based on received feedback.	Nina Peters (UT)
0.4	10/08/2024	pre-final	Pre-final version reviewed.	Markus Reichstein (MPG), Jan-Willem van de Meent (UvA)
0.5	22/08/2024	pre-final	Updated based on received feedback.	Matthias Bethge (UT), Nina Peters (UT)
0.6	26/08/2024	final	Final version completed	Nina Peters (UT)



Acronyms

Abbreviated	Extended
ADRA	AI, Data and Robotics Association
AI	Artificial Intelligence
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment; Energy Information Administration
ELIAS	European Lighthouse of AI for Sustainability
ELIAS Alliance	European Leadership in Innovation with AI and Science Alliance
ELIAS node	European Leadership in Innovation with AI and Science node
ELLIS	European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems
ETH	Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
EU	European Union
HPI	Hasso-Plattner-Institut
ML	Machine Learning
MLSS	Machine Learning Summer School
MPG	Max Planck Gesellschaft
RB	Robert Bosch GmbH
TTSS	Transformative Technology Summer School
UNITN	Università Degli Studi di Trento
UT	University of Tübingen
UvA	Universiteit van Amsterdam
WP	Work Package

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Executive Summary

This document is the first periodic report on the establishment of the Alliance for **E**uropean **L**eadership in **I**nnovation with **AI** and **S**cience (ELIAS Alliance), which is the first deliverable of Work Package (WP) 5 – Entrepreneurship and Tech Transfer within the ELIAS project. In addition to the ongoing exchange among the task leaders of WP5, the strategy and implementation of creating the ELIAS Alliance was discussed with the community at a dedicated workshop in Frankfurt in February 2024. Following a careful search, we appointed Nina Peters in June 2024 at the University of Tübingen as the coordinator of the Alliance and we immediately started to organize the Call for ELIAS Nodes as key building blocks of the alliance.

The primary objective of this report is to outline all efforts undertaken in the first 12 months following the launch of the ELIAS project in September 2023. It focuses on the initial activities and foundational steps in creating the ELIAS Alliance, assesses the impact of these efforts on fostering entrepreneurship and technology transfer, and provides a roadmap for future actions to enhance innovation leadership in AI and science within the European Union and improve its competitiveness on a global scale.

To ensure continued monitoring and assessment of the ELIAS Alliance, subsequent reports will be provided in month 36 (August 2026) and month 48 (August 2027) of the project. These reports will offer updated insights into the ongoing efforts, achievements and the impact of the ELIAS Alliance.

1. Introduction

An increased focus on sustainability and the exponential growth of digitisation are two pivotal trends impacting the rapid transformation of our global economy. Recent geopolitical events, such as the war in Ukraine, have underlined the vulnerabilities associated with energy dependency, creating an urgent imperative for economic and societal actors to prioritize environmental and social business criteria. The call for sustainable practices is louder than ever, as the world is facing the dual challenge of energy security and environmental responsibility. Simultaneously, the economy is witnessing a dramatic growth in digitization. Data-driven artificial intelligence (AI) methods are becoming indispensable tools, offering innovative solutions that disrupt traditional business paradigms across all markets and market segments. The government and companies are racing to harness AI's transformative potential, recognizing its significant implications for competitive advantage.

Amidst these transformative trends, a European AI-network of excellence, ELLIS (short for European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems) has been established to boost and maintain Europe's competitiveness in data-driven AI research. The ELLIS Society, founded in 2018, embodies a strategic effort to foster excellence and collaboration among Europe's top AI researchers, leveraging EU networks of excellence and public-private partnerships like ADRA. However, there is a critical need for innovation networks focused on sustainability. Addressing this gap, the European Lighthouse of AI for Sustainability (ELIAS) was initiated in September 2023.

The ELIAS project is dedicated to expanding the scope of Europe's AI research excellence networks to stimulate the development of economically viable solutions for a sustainable and socially inclusive economy.

In order to develop strong ties between academic research and economic innovation, a key effort of this initiative is the establishment of the Alliance for **E**uropean **L**eadership in **I**nnovation with **A**I and **S**cience (ELIAS Alliance). This pan-European AI-preneurial network seeks to amplify value creation "made in Europe." Tentatively called the *European Innovation Alliance (EIA)* in the initial proposal, the name has been changed to ELIAS Alliance to emphasize its connection to the ELIAS project, and to avoid potential confusion with existing EIA acronyms.

The ELIAS Alliance builds a framework to attract and support talents within Europe with the ambition to create innovative startups in sustainable AI. It fosters talents at different stages of their careers through targeted initiatives and actions, which we elaborate on in the following sections. In particular, we summarize the mission, objectives and coordination of the alliance (section 2-3), elaborate on its launch and related measures (section 4), and explain our future plans for the alliance (section 5). The primary focus of



this report lies on the initiatives and measures we introduced throughout the past months of the ELIAS Project, highlighting the progress and impact of this ambitious endeavor.



2. Mission and Objectives

As laid out in the ELIAS Grant Agreement, Work Package (WP) 5 focuses on the interface between science and industry to foster the creation of new technologies made in Europe and generate economic impact, ensuring that Europe remains internationally competitive in the strategic field of AI.

For WP5, four main objectives were defined. Firstly, (T5.1) the establishment of a highly visible ELIAS Alliance, formerly known as “European Innovation Alliance”, which is the central focus of this report. Secondly, (T5.2) the support and inspiration of academic mentors and young talents to create technological solutions that have a positive social impact. Thirdly, (T5.3) the creation of model cases for “AI made in Europe” and the expansion towards sustainable entrepreneurship. Lastly, (T5.4) the promotion of exchanges between academia and industry to ensure SMEs gain access to the latest research developments.

Europe is home to robust regional ecosystems that blend top-tier AI research with a dynamic environment of innovative startups and industry players. We started building the ELIAS Alliance (T5.1) to combine the strengths of internationally recognized entrepreneurial and industrial innovation communities with interfaces to leading AI research.

The ELIAS Alliance’s objective is to boost academic education around the open source development of foundation models, supported by a network of incubators¹ and startups developing proprietary products in this domain. Central to this mission is (1) the attraction of talents, (2) bridging the gap between academia and business, and (3) facilitating their integration into regional entrepreneurial and industrial ecosystems. While ELLIS and its associated networks have cultivated a community of world-class European AI scientists, academically focused “Google Scholar talents,” ELIAS will strategically focus on connecting, attracting, and nurturing a community of entrepreneurial-minded “Crunchbase talents.”

¹ An incubator is a facility or program that supports the development of startups by offering resources as office space, funding, mentorship and networking opportunities.



3. Coordination Office

With the onboarding of the ELIAS Coordinator at the University of Tübingen (UT) in June 2024, the Coordination Office of WP5 is complete. Taking the lead in Task 5.1, to establish the ELIAS Alliance, a core coordinating team has been formed that meets on a weekly basis to ensure a high degree of continuity and development which is especially needed in the beginning of the project. Coordinated by the UT, the meetings are organized to discuss the strategy to launch the ELIAS Alliance, its outreach, maintenance and the development of new strategies.

To coordinate with all Work Package partners², we discuss each WP task during bimonthly online meetings. These meetings provide opportunities to share and gain new insights, facilitate brainstorming on tasks and related topics, and ensure that we stay updated and on track regarding the achievement of the previously mentioned WP objectives.

² The core Work Package 5 Partners joining the bimonthly meetings organized by the UT are UNITN, IDEAS, ETH, HPI, BOSCH, UvA and MPG.

4. Launch of the ELIAS Alliance

4.1 Setting the Scene for the ELIAS Alliance

We organized the Joint ELISE–ELIAS Flagship Workshop on February 7–8, 2024, in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, to discuss the future of open source foundation models and sciencepreneurship in Europe. This flagship workshop, a collaboration with the European Network of Excellence ELISE, served as a crucial platform to bring together key players in open source AI initiatives and entrepreneurship to initiate tangible actions.

The workshop was divided into two parts. Against the background of society’s growing reliance on a few foundational AI systems from a small number of players, the first part of the workshop focused on identifying opportunities and approaches for Europe and academia to play a significant role in shaping the future of open source foundation models. This part featured open discussion as well as talks by Yann LeCun (Meta), Katharina Frey (Swissther AI), Samuel Weinbach (IPAI Aleph Alpha), Daniel Naeff (Swiss AI), among several others.

The talks and discussions were based on the following guiding questions:

1. What is the future of open source foundation models?
2. If scale rules, how can academia compete in AI?
3. Can we enhance academic environments to breed talent on scalable AI?
4. How can we use open source AI+X as an opportunity to build a sciencepreneurial ecosystem in Europe?
5. Is it worth starting an annual meeting to accelerate open source foundation model & sciencepreneur education in academia? (e.g. alongside the Swiss AI Summit week).

The second part of the workshop dealt with the question if Europe and academia can reinvent innovation. The urgency of foundational solutions aimed at sustainability and building healthier societies could provide an opportunity for Europe and academia to pioneer a new path to innovation.

Guiding Questions for the second part were:

1. How can we support AI professors to mentor students on “foundational” innovation?
2. How to build an ELIAS graduate project program?
3. How to build sciencepreneur units? (ELIAS Nodes)
4. If we make a call for ELIAS Nodes and sciencepreneur fellows (ELIAS Fellows), what criteria do we want to announce?
5. What other measures could be most impactful to boost AI+X entrepreneurship?

As a result of the workshop, we agreed on tangible European sciencepreneurship measures for WP5 to successfully build the ELIAS Alliance. The first action that is currently being implemented is a call for ELIAS Nodes, which we will discuss in detail below. In parallel, WP5 is setting up supporting measures and initiatives as listed in Section 4.3.

4.2 Call for ELIAS Nodes

The ELIAS Alliance is being launched by bringing together and leveraging existing local sciencepreneurial ecosystems. Through the open call for proposals for the creation of ELIAS Nodes, we seek outstanding leaders who infuse entrepreneurial thinking into academia and are eager to collaborate on developing effective strategies for boosting European innovation. The goal is to build a successful network that will persist also beyond the runtime of the ELIAS project as part of the enduring activities of ELLIS.

The alliance intends to create and support a network of incubators and startups, driving European value creation through AI and science-based innovation. Its objective is to provide a strategic framework and a support infrastructure for so-called European Leadership in Innovation with AI and Science nodes (ELIAS Nodes), which serve as local hubs driving AI-preneurship and innovation within their respective regions. Importantly, we seek to explore how these activities can become an integral part of academic education rather than an extracurricular activity that is not credited towards students' degrees.

Launching the call in July 2024 aligns with the start of the academic year and entrepreneurial activities, ensuring that selected nodes can effectively start operating by the upcoming term³. Rooted in ELLIS Units and their entrepreneurial ecosystems, the newly established ELIAS Nodes are given the opportunity to take ownership and shape the ELIAS Alliance, with a focus on effective tech transfer to society.

We decided to include the possibility to nominate up to ten ELIAS Fellows in the call as it allows for an immediate alignment between the nodes and fellows. In their nomination file, ELIAS Fellows need to show proof of how they inspire and support students in academia to pursue an entrepreneurial career. Such an integrated approach ensures that the goals and needs of the nodes are directly considered when selecting ELIAS Fellows⁴. By having fellows who actively engage with students and encourage an entrepreneurial mindset, we create a supportive ecosystem that enhances the entrepreneurial landscape within the nodes. This synergy allows both ELIAS Fellows and the nodes to benefit from shared resources, ideas, and networks, ultimately driving greater innovation and success in their initiatives.

³ See the call for proposals at <https://elias-ai.eu/elias-alliance/> (ELIAS Alliance 2024).

⁴ Criteria for selection are the following: they are either a Professor, a group leader at a university or similar academic mentor with tangible links to entrepreneurship/industry, actively supports entrepreneurship (built spin-offs or helped their students to build or join startups) and entertains meaningful collaborations/exchange with startups, industry and hardcore entrepreneurs.

With the publication of the call, we have created a dedicated ELIAS Alliance webpage integrated in the ELIAS website, as it can serve as a centralized location for all information about the Alliance, facilitating the access for stakeholders, potential members and the general public.

The call was published on the ELIAS and ELLIS websites and shared via the internal ELLIS and ELIAS Slack channels. The deadline for proposal submissions was set for September 29th, 2024, providing an opportunity for applicants to submit compelling proposals demonstrating their excellence, entrepreneurial track record, and their contributions and connection to the open source AI research community.

In the following, a summary of the points interested applicants are requested to share their input on through the application form.

Participating organizations and team composition

- List all organizations (e.g. higher-ed institutes, industry partners, funding bodies) supporting your ELIAS node and indicate how they support your node. Provide a physical address of the node and the amount of square meters that are available for the node as coworking/lecturing space. Please include pictures as supplementary material showing the space and use them to indicate how you plan to support the physical visibility of the node.
- Provide a support letter from each organization signed by a C-level representative.
- Specify the head of the ELIAS node.
- Name the lead administrative coordinator of the node who will be responsible for the communication between the nodes across the ELIAS Alliance and explain how you will coordinate and decide on the activities of the node across all participating organizations.
- List all further members you want to include in the node and their potential roles.
- Nominate up to ten (including the head of the node) ELIAS Fellows in your node who qualify as role model for sciencepreneurship. Each nominated candidate needs to provide a separate one-pager describing their track record of how they inspire and support students in academia to pursue an entrepreneurial career. In this one-pager, the following questions need to be answered:
 - What is your vision and philosophy for value creation “made in Europe”?
 - Describe your sciencepreneurial track record referring to your scientific and technological achievements and your company building achievements.
 - List five key collaborators that help you bridging between science and entrepreneurship.
 - What are tangible mentoring activities you want to pursue as an ELIAS Fellow to inspire and support students to embark on a sciencepreneurial career.



- How do you envision integrating your activities in the ELIAS Alliance?

Vision for your node and the alliance

- Founding partners of the ELIAS Alliance should be proactive and enthusiastic about building the alliance. Provide a concise summary of your vision for the node and the collaborative efforts with the other alliance partners.

Entrepreneurial track record and planned activities

- Describe your existing technology transfer ecosystem exemplifying your spin-offs, your collaborations with startups, industry, and business schools, your sciencepreneurial education and team building efforts, and your financial support for early stage transfer projects.
- Explain how you want to leverage these activities for the node, what additional activities you are planning, and how you envision the coordinating role and added value created by the node.
- ELIAS aims to promote thought leadership in value creation by integrating relevant courses into existing curricula, allowing students to earn credit points for their entrepreneurial activities that contribute towards their academic degrees. Please specify for all activities offered by universities in your ELIAS node how they can be credited towards BSc, MSc, and PhD programs.

Open source AI research

- Large AI foundation models are increasingly becoming a cornerstone of AI product development, yet they are predominantly created outside of academic settings. The ELIAS Alliance cooperates closely with open source foundation model communities to enhance academic students' access to this leading technology. Additionally, the alliance aims at building a network of incubators and startups that are particularly experienced with all facets of product development related to foundation models. Please describe how you are supporting and participating in building open source foundation models documented by scientific papers and research grants.
- How do you leverage foundation models for startups and value creation?

Connection to ELLIS

- ELIAS is part of ELLIS initiative. Please describe your existing connection to the ELLIS/ELIAS community and how you plan to integrate the ELIAS node into this community effort.

A team of international entrepreneurs and scholars will start with the reviewing process once the application deadline has passed. The reviewers make their selection based on the combined track record in entrepreneurship and AI research excellence, and the level of commitment documented in the application while taking into account the following criteria:

- ELIAS Nodes need to have a physical location, i.e. a well specified co-working space dedicated to entrepreneurial activities and agreement to support a joint co-branding. Attractive space with clear commitment to co-branding contributes to a strong application.
- ELIAS Nodes have a convincing program for running sciencepreneurial courses in academia and support transfer projects. The application is strengthened if students can earn credit points for these courses, applicable towards their BSc/MSc/PhD degrees.
- ELIAS Nodes are supporting and ideally participating in building open source foundation models. In particular, they offer an educational program that allows students to acquire hands-on experience with building large models.
- ELIAS Nodes partner with a business school and actively support team building with complementary skills (e.g. tech + business).
- ELIAS Nodes have compelling collaborations with (a) startups and (b) industry.
- The nomination of the head of the ELIAS Node as an ELIAS Fellow is mandatory and needs to be successful.
- Ideally most nominations of ELIAS Fellows are successful, and the leadership of ELIAS Nodes consist of a strong and diverse team combining different backgrounds and experiences.
- ELIAS Nodes are managed by a dedicated lead administrative coordinator ideally with experience in the coordination of entrepreneurial activities.

4.3 Other ELIAS Measures linked to the ELIAS Alliance

The ELIAS Alliance is envisioned to become an umbrella network for value creation with AI and science made in Europe combining various activities and measures to make the philosophical foundation and skill set of value creation an integral part of academic education. In the following we mention some of the related ELIAS activities in WP5 that play a vital role in creating a long-lasting alliance⁵. These measures aim to encourage

⁵ Please note that this is only a short progress report, as the measures described in Section 4.3.2, 4.3.3 and 4.3.4 will be covered in the first periodic report on the programme for supporting academic mentors and young talents into technology transfer (D5.2).

innovation, foster creativity, and leverage our extensive network, bringing together diverse talents to tackle real-world challenges.

4.3.1 Pan-European Accelerator Program

The Pan-European Accelerator Program, branded as the AI Launchpad, was born from the vision of creating a unified platform that supports AI startups across Europe. Recognizing the fragmented nature of local accelerators, we sought to build an interconnected network that leverages the strengths of various hubs. This pilot initiative brings together the best minds in AI research and entrepreneurship, providing startups with the tools they need to succeed.

We have established six hubs in key European cities, each offering a unique local accelerator platform. By integrating these hubs into a centralized system, we ensure that all startups benefit from shared knowledge and resources. Our commitment is to foster innovation and support the growth of AI-driven solutions that address real-world challenges and to build a community for AI startups.

The six partnering hubs are:

- INits with their SCALEup incubation program based in Vienna (Austria).
- DTU Skylab with the Ignite Accelerator Program based in Lyngby (Denmark).
- Campus Founders with their AI Founders program based in Heilbronn (Germany).
- KTH with their accelerator program based in Stockholm (Sweden).
- UTUM with their XPLORE Venture Creator program based in Munich (Germany).
- ETH AI Center with Talent Kick based in Zurich (Switzerland).

Teams of 2 to 4 entrepreneurial students or researchers are encouraged to apply through the central AI Launchpad application portal⁶ to become a rising AI Startup within the ELIAS, ELLIS and RISE Europe networks⁷. Participation criteria are that they need to be in the process of completing higher education at a European university, aiming to develop AI technologies and have the goal of launching a VC-fundable startup with European impact.

Following the 12-week local accelerator program, the teams that participate will also have access to the 2-week Market Entry Camp that will take place in February 2025. A common demo day is scheduled for March 2025. Applications for the first pilot batch are open until August 21 and the first batch will be announced on September 6, 2024.

4.3.2 Transformative Technology Summer School

⁶ More details can be found on the website of the AI Launchpad: <https://www.ai-launchpad.eu>.

⁷ RISE Europe is a network of European ecosystem builders that jointly accelerate startup teams and help them to become sustainable market leaders. More details can be found here: <https://www.rise-europe.com/>.

In order to attract and inspire students for technology transfer right from the start of the ELIAS project, we teamed up with ETH and EPFL to run the first Sciencepreneurship Summer School that aims to bridge the gap between scientific research and entrepreneurial ventures. It focuses on fostering collaboration and knowledge transfer between industry experts, entrepreneurs, and academic talents. The objective is to support participants in translating their innovative ideas into practical solutions and viable business ventures.

The summer school took place in Lausanne, Switzerland, from April 29 to May 3, 2024. Out of 120 applicants, 40 participants were selected based on their academic qualifications and potential. In total, the program consisted of seven lectures, eleven workshops, and three panels.

The program was structured around three pillars:

Knowledge Transfer

- Industry experts and real investors shared their knowledge on fundraising, sales, and market validation.
- Insights into current trends and practical applications of ML and AI were shared in panel discussions.
- Networking events allowed participants to ask individual questions and receive guidance from industry experts.

Inspiration

- Successful entrepreneurs shared their stories in keynote speeches demonstrating pathways to successfully starting a science-based venture.

Hands-On Experiences

- Participants worked on developing a business idea throughout the week.
- Experts and investor coaching provided coaching on refining ideas and business models.
- Final presentations were held in front of a jury of experts and real investors, offering feedback and giving tips on how to improve.

Building on this successful summer school, the next one is planned for month 36 of the ELIAS project, potentially co-located with MLSS⁸. For the next edition, we plan on updating the curriculum and incorporating the latest advancements in ML and AI. We also want to strengthen the practical focus by engaging with industry partners, and startups to provide real-world challenges that the participants can work on during the program. Two further measures are planned to increase the impact of the summer school; to promote inclusivity, we will intensify our efforts to make the program accessible to a broader range

⁸ More details on the MLSS series initiated by the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft can be found here: <http://mlss.cc/>

of participants, including underrepresented groups. Second, we will create an Alumni Network to maintain connections among participants, mentors, and partners, and to foster a supportive community for ongoing innovation and entrepreneurship.

In summary, the Transformative Technology Summer School aims to support the development of innovative solutions with societal impact by providing a platform for collaboration and learning among academic mentors and young talents.

4.3.3 Hackathon

The organisation of a hackathon is an integral part of the European Lighthouse of AI for Sustainability project and is designed to bridge the gap between the scientific and business communities.

The primary objective of the hackathon is to create a platform that connects business-oriented individuals with scientists and facilitates the search for people with the necessary competencies. The platform will automatically generate a comprehensive track record of technology transfer and entrepreneurial activities of scientists. The hackathon's participants will be encouraged to design solutions leveraging popular social networking sites like LinkedIn, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, or Crunchbase, though the format is flexible.

The hackathon will take place on November 16 and 17, 2024, as an in-person event at IDEAS's headquarters in Warsaw. Branded as IDEAHACK, the target audience are students and PhD candidates in Computer Science. Teams will consist of 3 to 5 members, with a maximum of 50 participants. The jury consisting of a group of experts in AI, start-ups and venture capital will award the best three teams.

The winning Hackathon idea will be further developed to ensure it can be widely utilized in a larger, European-scale hackathon in late spring 2025. This subsequent event will focus on addressing real-business challenges, developed in collaboration with the ETH Accelerator from Zurich. This hybrid event will involve teams working locally with the best ideas showcased at a demo day at IDEAS NCBR HQ in Warsaw. The top team will gain a fast track to accelerate their project within the AI Launchpad Accelerator.

4.3.4 Startup Internship Program

We are in the early stages of developing a startup internship program that offers talented individuals an alternative to internships at major tech companies. This program aims to ignite their entrepreneurial spirit and provide hands-on experience in the dynamic world

of startups. The first group of students undertaking internships is scheduled for spring/summer 2025.

As an initial step, we have successfully onboarded 6 ELLIS Units along with their affiliated startup ecosystems. These units are the ELLIS Zürich Unit with Talent Kick, the ELLIS Amsterdam Unit with the Startup Village, the ELLIS Vienna (IST) Unit with XISTA Innovation, the ELLIS Cambridge Unit with StartupBlink, the ELLIS Sofia Unit with INSAIT, and the ELLIS Tübingen Unit with Cyber Valley. With these units, we establish a strong foundation for creating a robust network of internship opportunities. Additionally, initial drafts for a call for startups and a call for PhD students interested in internships were drafted. These drafts will be finalized and published by the end of month 13 of the project. The next steps involve reaching out to the ELIAS Nodes and collecting a diverse array of internship opportunities from all ELIAS and ELLIS members. To maintain high standards and ensure the best matches between students and startups, we will develop a transparent and objective framework to identify and select the most promising internship opportunities.

Using this framework, we aim to select at least 10 startup internship opportunities that provide meaningful and impactful experiences for the participating students. We will actively promote these opportunities among PhD students.

By integrating these various initiatives in the alliance, we create a vibrant and dynamic ecosystem that supports the growth and development of our students, researchers, and startup partners.

5. Outlook

From the enthusiastic response to the call for ELIAS Nodes to the successful execution of the first edition of the Transformative Technology Summer School, the launch of the AI Accelerator program and the initiation of other initiatives such as the startup internship programme and the Hackathon, the ELIAS Alliance is on its way to advancing European leadership in AI and science-based innovation. In the upcoming months, we will focus on finalizing the selection of ELIAS Nodes and Fellows, enhancing coordination and communication efforts, and continuing to implement strategic initiatives that drive transformative change.

Strategic Selection and Support: The UT Coordination Office will announce the selection results for ELIAS Nodes in fall 2024. This selection will involve over ten regional AI innovation networks, guided by an advisory board of leading European deep tech entrepreneurs. This collaborative effort will help shape strategies for expanding the network, emphasizing excellence and upward mobility.

Coordination and Representation: The office will enhance coordination between regional networks and develop a joint external representation for the ELIAS Alliance. Once the selection process has been completed and the ELIAS Nodes are informed of the outcome, we plan an introduction of the nodes on the ELIAS Alliance page⁹ to increase its visibility. To bring ELIAS partners and ELIAS Nodes together and build an integrative community around open source foundation models and stimulate flow from science to society and startups, the UT will partner with the ETH to organize the first edition of the annual Open Source Development of Foundation Model Meeting on October 2, 2024, in the framework of the AI+Environment Summit in Zürich, Switzerland.

White Paper and Strategic Initiatives: The consortium will publish a white paper detailing ELIAS's approach to foster science-driven innovation in transformative technologies. Most importantly, this document aims to offer a conceptual grounding for an original approach to value creation with AI "made in Europe" outlining how social entrepreneurship may gain the power to disrupt the innovation landscape. In particular, we will emphasize the urgent need to foster "*value creation literacy*" as an integral part of academic education and curricula and highlight practical measures to achieve this goal. This document will serve to align the activities within the ELIAS alliance and inspire and support academic mentors and students in developing sustainable technologies and transitioning them from the lab to the market.

Focus on Excellence and Collaboration: We will continue working on measures to attract and enable talents at the intersection of scientific innovation and business in the form of the launch of the startup internship program, piloting the AI Launchpad Accelerator and

⁹ ELIAS Nodes will be introduced here: <https://elias-ai.eu/elias-alliance/> (ELIAS Alliance 2024).



the introduction of the IDEAHACK. These efforts aim to establish original AI solutions, and contribute to a sustainable future, a cohesive society, and respect for individual rights.

The ELIAS Alliance is well positioned to ensure Europe remains at the forefront of global technological advancement. The next steps and initiatives will build on the solid foundation already established, with a strong commitment to excellence, sustainability, and innovation.