

Media Release

Numerous renowned organizations join forces to work on a Swiss Artificial Intelligence Research Overview Platform

Swiss Artificial Intelligence Research Overview Platform

Zurich 20 May 2021 Swiss organizations from the fields of research funding, academia and industry have agreed to jointly compile an overview of the expertise of Swiss research institutions in the field of artificial intelligence (AI). As an enabling technology that is finding its way into all areas of daily life, AI is of outstanding importance for Switzerland as a research location and for future value creation. The planned platform – the Swiss AI Research Overview Platform (SAIROP) – is intended to present an overview of AI competencies in Switzerland's scattered research landscape. To this end, the partners involved will compile information on current research projects from existing databases, process it and make it more accessible by means of the new platform – which is likely to be unique in the European region in the planned level of detail. SAIROP will improve the visibility of Swiss AI research partners, providing a new gateway for local and international companies and research institutions to initiate future innovation projects. SAIROP is scheduled to be launched in fall 2021 and will be publicly accessible.

Ten organizations have agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly develop and promote an AI research review. The initiative, coordinated by the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences SATW, aims to exploit synergies among the partners involved and to join forces: The organizations are united by the desire to develop and maintain a descriptive overview of current research activities in the field of AI in order to quickly identify and refer appropriate experts. Currently, this information is scattered among databases and websites of research funding organizations and universities. SAIROP will now serve as a central access point to unite the data from different sources and highlight the competencies of Swiss research groups on the basis of current projects.

satw it's all about
technology

CLAIRE

impact

INNOVISTA
DISCOVER THE UNEXPECTED

swiss group for artificial intelligence
and cognitive science
GGaico

SNOWFLAKE

SWITCH

**SWITZERLAND
GLOBAL
ENTERPRISE**
enabling new business

euresearch
Swiss guide to European
research and innovation

The importance of artificial intelligence is growing

AI is in more and more products and services, enhancing our quality of life. It is also part of many approaches to solving global problems such as global warming or the COVID-19 fight. Despite lockdowns and isolation, the pandemic has also brought us closer together as a society. It created - at least for many - a new sense of community and solidarity. It has shown us how important the exchange and communication of scientific knowledge is as a basis for policy decisions. Despite the EU's current efforts to regulate AI more heavily, we are increasingly reliant on it. Rules for AI should therefore be designed in such a way that they enable maximum benefit. After all, only with the help of AI can the abundant data be meaningfully analysed and appropriate measures taken, for example, to shorten the development times for new vaccinations. It is becoming increasingly crucial to identify the right expert as quickly as possible. This applies not only to political issues, but also to social and economic considerations.

The Swiss AI community is scattered

It is both a curse and a blessing: Switzerland has an enormously dense network of high-quality research institutions working on AI. On the other hand, unlike Germany with its DFKI, for example, this country lacks a central point of contact for questions about artificial intelligence. This can make it difficult, especially for interested parties from abroad, to identify suitable project partners, as a result of which certain research questions are then dealt with abroad. With SAIROP, all interested parties should in future be able to independently obtain a picture of which research groups have competencies in which AI topics. In principle, the relevant information is already available today. However, the databases of the research funding institutions and websites of the universities are set up from the respective perspective and pursue other goals than to provide a national overview. It can therefore be difficult to find relevant information for a specific research question or to compare research groups with each other. This is what SAIROP aims to do. The partners involved see it as a joint project to compile, process and communicate the relevant data. This is also because some of them have already invested resources in similar undertakings.

Making research projects more accessible brings benefits

With SAIROP, the partners aim to better showcase the strengths of the many research groups in Switzerland working on AI. The aim is also to highlight the diversity of AI and not limit the overview to the currently most popular areas such as machine learning and neural networks. The partners expect SAIROP to provide new insights for research funding organizations, among others, and thus form a better basis for strategic decision-making. The initiative is also a call for collaboration to the AI research community: not least, SAIROP is intended to further connect research groups with each other and foster even closer collaboration. Other interested organizations are invited to participate in the further development of the platform if they are interested and to contribute to making research results in

the field of AI accessible to a broader audience. With SAIROP, Swiss expertise in the field of AI will gain visibility beyond the scene abroad and will serve as a hub for international companies and research partners. In the longer term, further activities and events around SAIROP are planned to additionally support innovation and exchange.

Contact

Manuel Kugler | Head of Priority Program Artificial Intelligence |
+41 44 226 50 21 | manuel.kugler@satw.ch

Beatrice Huber | Head of Communication and Marketing |
+41 44 226 50 17 | beatrice.huber@satw.ch

SATW

The Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences SATW is the most important network of experts for engineering sciences in Switzerland and is in contact with the highest Swiss bodies for science, politics and industry. The network is comprised of selected individual members, member organisations and experts.

On behalf of the federation, SATW identifies industrially relevant technological developments and informs politics and society about their importance and consequences. As a unique expert organisation with high credibility, it conveys independent and objective information on technology – as the basis for establishing well-founded opinions. SATW also promotes the interests and understanding of technology in the population, particularly young people. It is politically independent and non-commercial.

Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe CLAIRE

The Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe (CLAIRE) is an organisation created by the European AI community that seeks to strengthen European excellence in AI research and innovation, with a strong focus on human-centred AI. CLAIRE, founded in 2018, has garnered the support of more than 3500 AI experts and stakeholders, who jointly represent the vast majority of Europe's AI community, spanning academia and industry, research and innovation.

Among them are more than 140 fellows from various key scientific associations. CLAIRE's membership network consists of over 380 research groups and institutions. CLAIRE is established as a non-for-profit international association and has administrative offices in The Hague (HQ), Brussels, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Rome, Saarbrücken and Zürich.

Fondation impactIA

The impactIA Foundation's mission is to accelerate the adoption of ethical, robust and legal artificial intelligence in the world of work. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, it has a national and international vocation.

By facilitating the sharing of information on research conducted in Switzerland, by contributing to its dissemination and communication, the foundation makes it easier for SMEs to access. It also contributes to making Switzerland a reference point on the world map, mainly in the field of ethical, robust and legal AI. By relaying research specifically impacting work, it accelerates the knowledge and dissemination of a transition in the world of work.

Innovista Management (innovista.ch)

Innovista Management enables companies and individuals to transform ideas and inventions into successful innovation projects by providing cutting-edge innovation management data and know-how to the industry. Its vision is to bridge the gap between science and practice and to promote cross-disciplinary synergies between its people. Innovista Management has developed its own Inodata system which solves multiple data engineering challenges and together with human expertise, provides a 360-degree view on the Swiss & EU innovation landscape by identifying key trends. Currently, this platform is being enhanced to include modern machine learning models to increase automation and accuracy.

Innovista is a Zurich based company, founded in 2012 and has since guided and accompanied over 100 organizations mainly in machinery and plant engineering where many projects include artificial intelligence applications.

Snowflake Productions GmbH

As a digital agency, we design, visualise and implement web applications - and we have been doing so since 1999. Experience has shown us: every industry, every company and its target group is individual. Successful solutions therefore require more than competence, a user-centred and customer-oriented approach or a passion for digital. It is equally important to be open to new things. This way, we have the right ideas and technologies ready and can rethink digital solutions.

Swiss Group for Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science SGAICO

SGAICO is the Special Interest Group for Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science within the Swiss Informatics Society. Its aim is to provide a platform for AI experts. As such SGAICO wants to participate in the project to enable a better visibility of Swiss AI researchers and AI Initiatives.

As SGAICO is a platform for AI experts, it can provide its expertise in the area of AI during the curation process of the Swiss AI Research platform.

Additionally, SGAICO will promote the platform among its members as well as will use data from the platform in its Swiss AI cartograph project.

SwissCognitive

SwissCognitive – The Global AI Hub – is a trusted network of industries, organizations, enterprises and start-ups to openly & transparently discuss the opportunities, impacts & development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). It is an on- and offline community that puts the spotlight onto practical use-cases & hands-on experiences and transfers the hype around AI into real possibilities.

We are highly motivated to ensure that the global and local AI community knows more about Swiss activities around AI. With over half a million followers, over 1000 global ambassadors and dozens of AI events, we are an excellent partner to promote this project.

SWITCH

SWITCH is the competent and trusted partner for digitalisation issues that jointly concern the education, research and innovation community in Switzerland. By providing a forward-looking and secure basic infrastructure, innovative solutions and targeted advice, and connecting relevant specialist communities, SWITCH helps universities and other partners within and outside the academic world to make effective and efficient use of the opportunities presented by digitalisation.

As one of the strategic directions, SWITCH engages in the incubation, enablement and coordination of the Research Data Connectome. The Connectome represents a partnership of eight Swiss institutions with the aim to leverage Linked Open Data for trusted reuse by research communities and data users.

Switzerland Global Enterprise S-GE

Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) is mandated by the Swiss government for export and invest promotion. We support Swiss SMEs in their international business and help innovative foreign companies to establish an operation in Switzerland. We focus on new technologies such as robotics, artificial intelligence, blockchain, personalized health and advanced manufacturing in attracting foreign investment for research and development projects. The Swiss AI Research Overview Platform helps us in identifying and matching Swiss capabilities with foreign investors, and we support this platform as a promotional partner.

Verein Euresearch

Euresearch is a non-profit association facilitating the Swiss participation in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, funded by the Swiss Government.

AI is prominent in the EU policies and a key element in the programmes Horizon Europe and Digital Europe. Euresearch supports Swiss stakeholders in the field by advertising upcoming calls and connecting Swiss competences with participants in the EU programmes.

Our participation in the initiative will facilitate and accelerate the identification of Swiss competences and their connection at the European level.