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AI Competence Framework for Citizens: Materials

Language version: English



National AI Competence Framework for Citizens

- The Ministry of Education and Culture convened a “AI Competence – Researchers’ and Experts’ Roundtable” series to develop a competence framework.
 - The aim was to bring together Finland’s frontrunners working on AI from different perspectives.
 - The framework was developed collaboratively with researchers and experts between 04/2025 and 02/2026.
 - The work builds on the European Commission’s Digital Competence Framework 3.0 update, but has been adapted to the Finnish context based on expert input.
- The framework has been developed as part of the project [“Interministerial AI Coordination and Data Economy Growth Programme”](#)

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Visualization

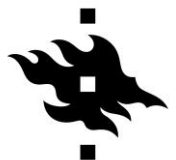
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AIdemoc



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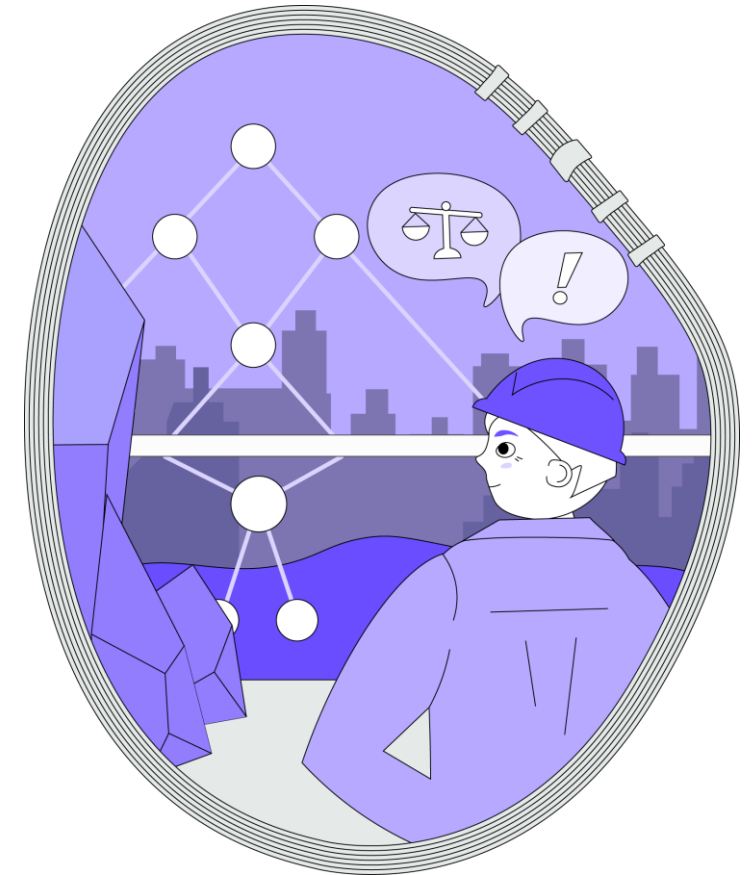
Knowing and Understanding AI

<p>Basic level</p> <p>Beginner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises uses of AI in different contexts. • Understands that AI reflects the assumptions embedded in its design and origin. • Is aware that AI applications can make errors. • Understands that AI can influence human behaviour.
<p>Intermediate level</p> <p>User</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the operating principles of AI in different contexts. • Analyses how design, origin and other key factors influence the functioning and reliability of AI. • Identifies opportunities and limitations of AI. • Understands the basic characteristics of human and AI interaction.
<p>Advanced level</p> <p>Practitioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the operating principles of AI technologies across different contexts. • Applies their understanding of how AI works when assessing the suitability of AI solutions in different situations, and recognises their associated impacts. • Applies their understanding of the opportunities and limitations of AI. • Recognises the implications of human and AI interaction for decision-making and action.
<p>Highly advanced level</p> <p>Developer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the operating principles of AI technologies across different contexts and actively follows and utilises research in the field. • Critically evaluates the principles underlying AI, identifying emerging innovations and solutions as well as their potential impacts and consequences. • Critically examines the opportunities and limitations of AI. • Understands the societal and cultural dimensions of AI and develops interaction with people accordingly.



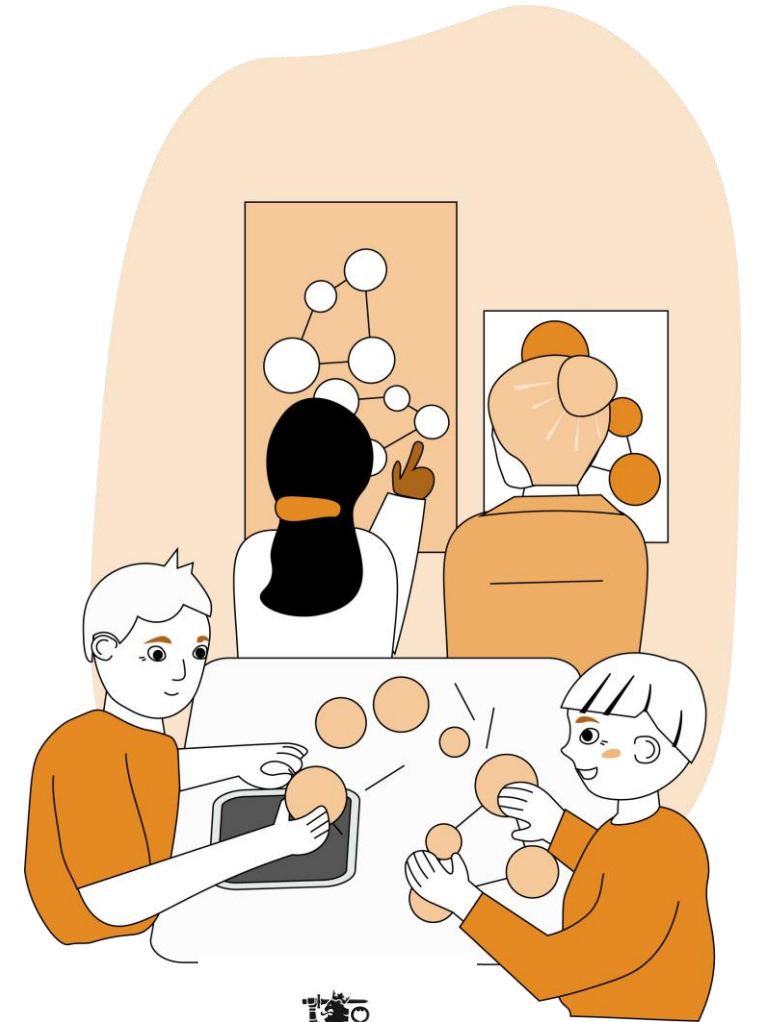
Assessing the Impacts of AI

<p>Basic level</p> <p>Beginner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies misinformation and attempts at manipulation in interactions with AI. • Grasps the ethical and sustainability implications of their actions. • Understands that AI can affect people's rights and position in society. • Is aware of societal discussion on AI.
<p>Intermediate level</p> <p>User</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draws reasoned conclusions and evaluates the reliability of outputs in interaction with AI. • Recognises the societal, ethical and sustainability implications of their actions. • Evaluates the roles and responsibilities of humans and AI in different societal contexts. • Participates in societal discussion on AI.
<p>Advanced level</p> <p>Practitioner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically evaluates and analyses outputs and seeks to improve them through interaction with different AI technologies. • Plans their actions with due regard to societal, ethical and sustainability implications. • Defines the roles and responsibilities of humans and AI in ways that support ethical, human-centred and sustainable AI development in society. • Participates in societal discussion on AI while taking a broad range of perspectives into account.
<p>Highly advanced level</p> <p>Developer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops and evaluates outputs to a high standard and refines them through interaction with different AI technologies. • Evaluates and takes into account the long-term societal, ethical and sustainability implications of both their and others' actions. • Promotes and builds responsibility and governance structures that support ethical, human-centred and sustainable AI development in society. • Actively participates in and leads societal discussion on AI, creating new initiatives and directions for development.



Using and Applying AI

Basic level Beginner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses existing AI solutions with instructions.• Considers when the use of AI is appropriate and recognizes its opportunities and limitations.• Seeks support from their community for the use and application of AI.
Intermediate level User	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses AI solutions independently and responsibly to perform tasks and identifies areas for improvement.• Justifies when the use of AI is appropriate and evaluates its opportunities and limitations in different contexts.• Supports others in their community in the use and application of AI.
Advanced level Practitioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applies AI solutions responsibly and develops new use cases and applications.• Evaluates when the use of AI is appropriate and takes into account the role of humans within AI-enabled processes across different contexts.• Guides others in their community in more advanced use and application of AI.
Highly advanced level Developer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applies AI solutions responsibly and creatively, and develops and implements new innovations.• Critically evaluates when the use of AI is appropriate and emphasizes its opportunities and limitations from human-centred and sustainability perspectives.• Leads others in their community in the versatile and advanced use, application and utilization of AI.



Stories behind the images



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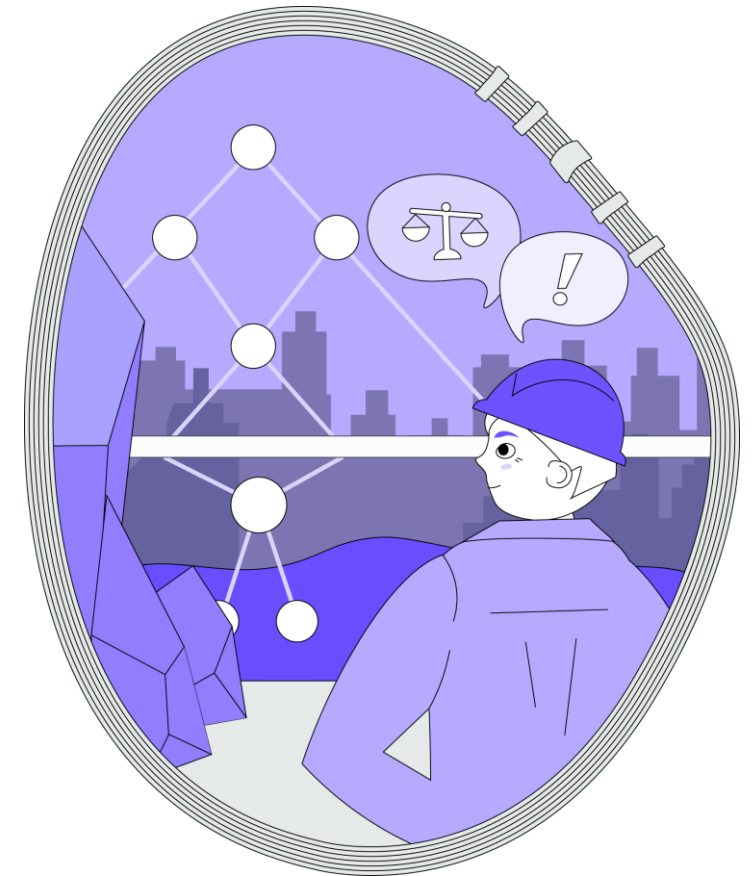
In the image, a person uses AI on a computer. At the centre is a funnel representing the training of AI, with images above it symbolising different training data sources. A cable running from the funnel to the computer illustrates the link between training and use. However, the interaction is not one-directional: the person produces likes that feed back into the system and influence its learning, forming a continuous loop between human activity and AI development.

The image also highlights the origins of AI and the risk of bias. A globe shows only part of the world, and the dataset contains more cats than dogs, emphasising that AI reflects the limitations and imbalances of available data. It further illustrates AI's impact on human behaviour: the person is inside a bubble, echoed by bubbles around the "likes", suggesting that AI can shape perceptions, reinforce existing patterns and narrow perspectives.



In the image, AI is presented in a societal context. At the centre is a bridge that serves as a metaphor for AI. The bridge is a concrete structure whose construction involves risks and is therefore regulated. It is placed in an urban environment, emphasising AI's role as part of societal structures. Speech bubbles around the bridge highlight public debate and ethical questions, showing AI not only as a technical system but as a phenomenon that requires ongoing discussion, judgement and shared rules.

The image also brings forward environmental and sustainability perspectives. Water and a quarry point to the material and ecological dimensions of technology. The entire scene is framed by data centre cables, linking visible use to underlying infrastructure and illustrating how AI is connected to broader systems and impacts.



In the image, the use and application of artificial intelligence are presented as a community-based activity. At the centre is the construction of a network model, making the use of AI concrete and visible. The building process illustrates that AI is not only used but also shaped through human action.

The presence of users at different levels highlights that AI is not limited to specialists. Different levels of expertise complement one another, with each playing a role in the whole. The image emphasises interaction between people, where collaboration, knowledge sharing and mutual support are central. Effective use of AI emerges collectively rather than through individual actors.



Thank you!

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