



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
Ministry of Digital Governance  
Minister's office

Kyriakos Pierrakakis  
Minister of Digital Governance  
11 Fragoudi & A. Pantou  
Kallithea 101 63  
Athens, Greece

Athens, 09-09-2019  
Αριθ. Πρωτ.: 590

Prof.dr. H.H. Hoos

Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial  
Intelligence Research in Europe (CLAIRE)

Leiden Institute of Advanced Computer Science (LIACS)  
Niels Bohrweg 1  
2333 CA Leiden  
The Netherlands

Dear Professor Hoos,

Artificial intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) have started to transform the global economy. They can help with the analysis of huge amounts of data and perform complex tasks in new ways across industrial and social sectors. AI, especially, has the potential to boost innovation, competitiveness, improve people's well-being, and sustain healthy economic growth.

It is well known that both the United States of America and China invest on AI with digital transformation becoming a pillar of economic, technological, and industrial policy all over the world. Consequently, Europe urgently needs to stimulate AI research and innovation. Following the signing of the Declaration of European Cooperation on AI,<sup>1</sup> the Coordinated Plan on AI Made in Europe,<sup>2</sup> and the work and guidelines produced by the High-Level Expert Group on AI,<sup>3</sup> Greece supports the swift implementation of European initiatives that advance key AI technology and applications.

In particular, we support two bottom-up European initiatives for AI, namely CLAIRE and ELLIS. These initiatives target short and long-term funding for basic and applied research in AI, as well as for establishing a network of Centers of Excellence, which can provide support to the extended AI ecosystem in Europe. CLAIRE and ELLIS have already attracted the interest and support of AI researchers in Europe—a significant part of which comes from Greece.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-member-states-sign-cooperate-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/coordinated-plan-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>3</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/high-level-expert-group-artificial-intelligence>



Further, Greece supports CLAIRE's key priority: focus on human-centered AI that augments human intelligence and benefits the European society. Digital transformation is a pivotal political and legislative priority for the Ministry of Digital Governance. We are, therefore, prepared to play a key role in AI-related efforts—for instance, by setting up national Centers of Excellence and supporting a central European AI hub in an appropriately selected location.

In this framework:

1. Greece will contribute to AI research and development in Europe. Currently, we are developing our national strategy in addition to the efforts of AI researchers in Greece.
2. Greece will support a new central AI facility in Europe. This facility will include large-scale computing and data infrastructure, with which it will be able to contribute and assist to AI initiatives all over Europe.
3. Greece will support the creation of a European network of Centers of Excellence in AI. These Centers will act as regional AI hubs. They will provide coordinated actions, data resources, testing facilities, and support with the primary goal being to increase the competitiveness of the European AI industry.
4. Greece will support these initiatives through—including but not limited to—GRNET.<sup>4</sup> GRNET is the national network, cloud, and IT infrastructure and services provider supporting the research, education, health, and cultural industries in Greece. Professor Stefanos Kollias, an AI and ML expert, is GRNET's Chairman. GRNET can form a major Center of Excellence in AI research and development, and collaborate with Greek universities, research organisations, and other stakeholders.
5. Greece will support the adoption of appropriate mechanisms and incentives at the European level, with the goal being to be able to attract high-skilled AI researchers from non-technical industries or backgrounds.

Therefore, I am writing you to highlight Greece's support of and commitment to the above AI initiatives. We aim to play a key role in creating the next generation European AI research infrastructure that will boost and assist AI research and innovation throughout Europe.

Sincerely,

**Kyriakos Pierrakakis**  
Minister of Digital Governance

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://gmet.gr/en/>