

Memorandum of Understanding

Founding and Operation of International AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA)

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (referred to as 2nd AIDA MoU) is made on the ???/???/2026, hereinafter referred to as the Effective Date,

BETWEEN

see AIDA Member list in: <https://www.i-aida.org/about/members/>

hereinafter, jointly or individually, referred to as "AIDA Members" or "AIDA Member",

relating to the **Founding and Operation of International AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA)**.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. MoU Preamble

In order to stay at the forefront of AI developments, the above AIDA Members form a common AI resource and will become a shared AI facility, as a virtual laboratory offering access to AI knowledge and expertise and attracting the talents. AIDA should become a reference, creating an easy entry point to AI excellence in Europe and the world and should also be instrumental for its visibility. The International AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA) started operations through a previous MoU on the September 2021 (referred to as 1st AIDA MoU) and will continue operating till the end of the 1st AIDA MoU (September 2026). This 2nd AIDA MoU renews and extends the cooperation established under the 1st AIDA MoU (September 2021–September 2026) for an additional four-year period (September 2026–September 2030).

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2. MoU Scope

Continued operation of International AI Doctoral Academy (AIDA) for offering access to knowledge and expertise and attracting PhD talents, operating like an umbrella organization for AI PhD and Postdoc studies and having significant industrial involvement.

3. AIDA Objectives

1. Coordination of the PhD/postdoc educational and training activities on AI of AIDA Members.
2. Aiming high to become a world-level reference for anything related to AI education and research.
3. Defining mechanisms to create inter-university sharing of educational assets in the area of PhD-level AI.
4. Envisage future efforts towards a charter for European and international Universities to share, accredit and recognize PhD education credits in the area of AI.

4. AIDA Definitions and Governance

Founding Members: Universities that initially sign this MoU.

Full Members (acronym AIDA Full Members): Universities from European Union (EU) having PhD studies on AI that will be invited to and will sign an accession document to this MoU. Founding AIDA Members are AIDA Full Members.

Associate Members: International Universities from other countries than EU ones, having PhD studies on AI, that will be invited to and will sign an accession document to this MoU.

Research & Industry Members: Research Institutions or Companies with AI activities that will be invited to and will sign an accession document to this MoU.

Voting Full/Associate/Research and Industry Members: AIDA Full/Associate/Research and Industry Members that have paid their annual AIDA membership fee.

Representatives. Representatives of any Member type must have a track record on AI research/education. Representatives of Full Members or Associate Members must be University Full/Associate/Assistant/Emeritus/Retired Professors that have a track record on AI research/education. A Representative may assign a Deputy Representative.

5. AIDA Governance

General Assembly (GA): It is the highest AIDA governing body consisting of one Representative of each Voting Full or Associate or Research & Industry Member.

Management Board (MB): It manages AIDA operations. It consists of 5 members: a) the AIDA Chair b) at least 2 Voting Full Member Representatives and at most 2 Voting Associate Member Representatives. The number of Management Board members may be changed by GA decision to 3 (the AIDA chair, at least 1 Voting Full Member Representative and at most 1 Voting Associate Member Representative). It is elected by the GA for a 4-year term. One AIDA GA ballot is organized for the AIDA Coordinator/Chair and another one for the remaining 4 AIDA MB members. The 2 top-voted Voting Full Member Representative candidates are elected in the first 2 AIDA MB member posts. Each of the rest 2 AIDA MB member posts are filled by top-voted Voting Associate Member Representative candidates on the condition that they have received more votes than Voting Full Member Representative candidates, else they are filled by the rest top-voted Voting Full Member Representative candidates.

Coordinator: It is a Voting Full Member hosting AIDA Management operations. It is elected by the General Assembly for a 4-year term.

Chair: She/he is the Management Board member, which is the Representative of the Coordinator and chairs AIDA General Assembly, and Management Board.

Research and Innovation Board: It consists of international AI research and industry experts and advises AIDA on research and industrial innovation. Its chair and members are elected by the AIDA General Assembly or the AIDA Management Board for a 4-year term, or less.

All 4-year terms synchronize with the one of the Management Board.

Sender: AIDA Member of any type sending Students or staff to attend AIDA Education and Training Activities.

Host: AIDA Member of any type organizing an AIDA Education and Training Activity. A Host should be a Full Member or Associate Member, when it comes to courses to be credited.

Student: PhD students/candidates or postdoc researchers belonging to any AIDA Sender. The AIDA Management Board may decide to expand this definition to other student categories (e.g., MSc students of AIDA members of any type) and may define Student selection criteria.

Lecturer: Academic/teaching personnel of any AIDA Member or Associate Member that: a) offers a course open to AIDA Students and/or b) is supervisor/mentor of an AIDA Student. External lecturers that occasionally offer AIDA courses temporarily become AIDA Lecturers through the AIDA Coordinator.

The AIDA General Assembly or Management Board can decide to create (or dissolve) special committees to work on any AIDA Operation. Committee chair and members are international AI experts approved by the AIDA General Assembly or the AIDA Management Board.

The AIDA Management Board decides procedures on how to update the lists of AIDA Lecturers and AIDA Students as well as membership of any AIDA Board or committee (including list/board/committee member removal for any reason, including inactivity or loss of e-contact).

The AIDA GA, AIDA Boards or committees can convene either physically or electronically (e.g., using telco tools) or in a hybrid mode. Any decision making by the AIDA GA or by any AIDA Board or committee can be performed using e-voting tools. The AIDA Chair compiles the minutes of the AIDA GA and AIDA MB meetings/telcos or voting procedures. They are electronically sent to the AIDA GA and AIDA MB members, respectively. If there are no comments/corrections within 15 days, they are considered to be approved by the respective body and are filled internally in the AIDA Google Drive. Alternatively, AIDA GA or AIDA MB minutes may be discussed for approval in a subsequent AIDA GA or AIDA MB meeting/telco, respectively. The chair of any other AIDA Board or committee follows a similar procedure for the respective Board/committee meeting/telco or voting procedure minutes.

6. AIDA Operations

6.1 AIDA Management Operations

It concerns management, dissemination, book-keeping and reporting of AIDA activities and resources. Management rules and procedures will be decided by AIDA GA or AIDA Management Board and should be compatible with Coordinator's own and/or national legislation, rules and internal procedures. Management will primarily be performed as a funded project by the Coordinator, following Coordinator's own rules and procedures.

6.2 AIDA Education and Training (ET) Activities

- Creation of a joint AI education curriculum.
- Offer of semester courses on AI by various AIDA Hosts to AIDA Students, according to the rules and regulations of each AIDA Host.
- Offer of short courses, lecture series, web lectures etc. on AI by various AIDA Hosts to AIDA Students, according to the rules and regulations of each AIDA Host.
- Industry, research or academic secondments.

- Coordination of AI research activities.
- Offering AI vision: AI Mellontology workshop and AI grand challenges.
- “AI excellence” lecture series (by world known senior AI researchers).
- “AI sprint” lecture series (by qualified postdocs and young researchers).
- Provisions for students of other backgrounds (e.g., Cognitive Science or Philosophy), also towards quality AI branding.
- “AI seniors”: qualified AI researchers that can act as an AI topic reference.
- “AI editors”: qualified AI researchers that curate AIDA AI educational resources.
- State-of-the-Art (SoA) overviews on AI topics (maintained by AI seniors).
- AIDA itinerant lecture series over the world (“AI troubadours”)
- AI workshops, symposia and seasonal schools.
- AI event calendar.

The above is a non-exhaustive list to be updated during AIDA operations. AI curriculum, graduate and short courses will always be on AIDA focus.

All AIDA members of any type are encouraged to participate in AI Education and Training activities on a win-win basis. AIDA Full or Associate Members will offer short/full graduate courses on fair own terms to other AIDA Full or Associate Members Students.

7. AIDA Dissemination/communication

They will be done primarily through AIDA www portal www.i-aida.org, various email lists and channels to be managed by the Coordinator and through various AI events. Internal AIDA communications are primarily done through the internal AIDA Management (for AIDA MB and committee members), AIDA Representatives, AIDA Lecturers and AIDA Students email lists.

8. AIDA Resources and Budget

AIDA resources come from its members of any type, its activities, funded R&D or educational projects, but also from any other source, e.g., donations or sponsorships. AIDA will operate on a non-profit basis. The annual AIDA budget covers the period of 1/1-31/12 of each calendar year. It must be approved by the AIDA General Assembly each September-October for the next calendar year. It will have the following income sources:

- a) Annual membership fees from all AIDA members of any type. Their level is defined in the annual AIDA budget. Annual membership fees may differ according to various criteria, e.g., to the AIDA Member type (Full/Associate/Research & Industry) and/or country of the AIDA Member. They must be paid by each AIDA Member of any type in the period 1/10-31/12 of each year to cover membership of the next calendar year and for retaining the voting status of this AIDA Member for the next calendar year.
- b) Revenue from AIDA activities, where a percentage of their surplus could be allocated to AIDA. Typically, this percentage is 15%, unless otherwise decided by the AIDA General Assembly or the AIDA Management board or the AIDA coordinator.
- c) European funding, by participating in research projects. All AIDA members are welcomed to submit educational and R&D proposals to ensure EU funding for AIDA activities, e.g., through

the planned European AI Academy. Any such success will greatly affect AIDA sustainability planning in a very positive way.

Annual fee or any other payment from an AIDA Member, or from an external legal entity (Payer) to the AIDA Coordinator can be performed by the central administration or any unit of the said AIDA Member or Payer, typically by electronic means, while following the standard financial management procedures of the AIDA Coordinator.

While annual membership fees from All AIDA members will be the primary source of AIDA income, all three AIDA funding options can be pursued in parallel.

AIDA expenses will consist of:

- a) labor expenses (e.g., for management and secretarial support),
- b) other expenses (e.g., travels, consumables, etc),
- c) VAT (if applicable) and other taxes and deductions, according to the national fiscal rules applicable to the AIDA Coordinator,
- d) overhead costs, according to the AIDA Coordinator rules.

Apart from the above-mentioned annual membership fees, the activities mentioned in this Memorandum of Understanding shall not, in principle, impose any financial obligations on AIDA members of any type. Each members of any type shall bear its costs and expenses to participate in AIDA, unless otherwise specified and agreed/accepted by the AIDA Member concerned.

As a general rule, Senders (or their Students themselves) cover the costs for their participation in AIDA ET Activities, using own rules and procedures. Hosts organize AIDA ET Activities and other AIDA operations and cover the related expenses using own rules and procedures. Exceptions to this general rule are allowed.

9. AIDA Academic Rules

A Student can register to become an AIDA Student through AIDA Coordinator. AIDA Lecturers must confirm the status of their own Students. All AIDA Full or Associate Members (Hosts) are encouraged to offer short/web/full graduate courses on preferential fair own terms, open to AIDA Students. Their relevant AIDA Lecturers notify the Coordinator upon: a) Student registration to a course and b) course completion by a Student (successful or otherwise) and provide any relevant information of any type that will be decided by AIDA Management board concerning the above said courses. Course credits will be recognized to a Student, according to Sender own rules. Students registered to AIDA can download an AIDA Certificate of Course Attendance (CCA), possibly also containing other attended AIDA ET Activities, from the AIDA portal. CCA only certifies the attended courses, it is NOT a degree, and it is issued after the Students get a minimal number of total credits. CCA format and details will be defined by AIDA GA or Management Board. For the avoidance of doubt, Student degree will always be delivered at the discretion of the corresponding University/Institution of original Student registration only, AIDA not being involved in this procedure in any way.

10. AIDA International Cooperation

AIDA will seek active cooperation with any European, national and international entity engaged in AI activities of any type, notably with any national AI network within EU and with:

- AI4Europe <https://www.ai4europe.eu/>
- European AI Alliance <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/european-ai-alliance>
- ELLIS Society <https://ellis.eu/units>
- CAIRNE <https://cairne.eu/> European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI) <https://www.eurai.org/>
- EURASIP <https://www.eurasip.org/>
- euRobotics <https://www.eu-robotics.net/>
- Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

AIDA can act as an umbrella organization for promoting the educational activities of such entities and networks.

11. AIDA Duration and Other Provisions

AIDA will continue operations once this MoU is signed by at least 40 AIDA Members. Existing AIDA resources, portal, data and procedures established during the 1st AIDA MoU will be used to this end. New AIDA Coordinator/Chair and AIDA Management Board member elections will be held immediately afterwards, at the latest in September 2026. The new AIDA Chair will present the 2027 AIDA budget proposal to the AIDA Management Board and AIDA General Assembly for approval within October 2026. AIDA will update its current www portal and Google drive to continue its operation under the 2nd AIDA MoU.

Prospective Members/Associate Members/Research & Industry Members can adhere to this MoU by signing its copy, together with the Coordinator. This MoU is valid for 4 years (9/2026-9/2030), that can be extended based on a decision of the AIDA GA and shall be subject to the drafting of an amendment to be signed by the members.

AIDA General Assembly is convened upon an invitation by the Chair of the Management Board with at least ten days' notice. The General Assembly will be in quorum, if at least 50% of the AIDA Voting Full or Associate Member Representatives participate in person or electronically. If a quorum is not formed at the first meeting, a new General Assembly is convened with the same issues after at least five (5) days with a new invitation. In this case, the General Assembly will be in quorum, if at least 20% of the AIDA Voting Full or Associate Member Representatives participate and/or vote in person or electronically. Decisions of AIDA General Assembly must be taken by a majority vote of all present Full or Associate Members. Decisions of Management Board or any other AIDA Board or Committee must be taken unanimously, whenever possible, or by majority vote.

Any AIDA Member of any type may refuse to implement a decision if it is contrary to the law of its country or to the internal rules governing its operation. Every decision on academic activities must comply with the national legislation and academic rules of the members of any type concerned.

AIDA may be terminated by a decision of the AIDA GA or the AIDA Management Board (in this order of decision making, in case the superior AIDA body fails to take a decision for whatever reason) to take effect after a 6-month period, so that any outstanding course/activity evaluation has been duly completed, in order to avoid any disadvantage to AIDA Students. Reasons for AIDA termination can be a) inactivity, b) failure

to have an approved annual AIDA budget within the September of each year, c) failure of the AIDA Coordinator to collect 75% of the total annual registration fees before the start of the next calendar year or d) any other reason deemed appropriate by the AIDA GA or the AIDA Management Board or the AIDA Coordinator.

Special annual registration fees can be foreseen by the AIDA Management Board for AIDA Associate Members coming from developing countries. The annual registration fees of such an AIDA Associate Member may be waived by the AIDA Management Board for the accession calendar year. For that period this Associate Member will have no voting rights.

AIDA members of any type are free to leave AIDA, after a 6-month prior notice and, subject, to any outstanding course/activity evaluation has been duly completed, in order to avoid any disadvantage to AIDA Students.

If an AIDA Member of any type fails to pay its membership fees for more than one calendar year, its membership is automatically discontinued.

In very exceptional cases of breach of AIDA MoU provisions, AIDA GA may decide to discontinue the membership of an AIDA Member of any type, which will take effect after a prior 6 month notice to the affected member.

In case an AIDA Management Board member resigns, new elections are held to fill the vacant post. In case the AIDA chair resigns, the AIDA Management Board organizes elections for a new AIDA Coordinator and Chair.

12. PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

12.1 Personal data, as defined in the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, shall always be treated as Confidential Information, and shall be protected with an adequate level of safety and confidentiality, subject to any applicable legal, regulatory or contractual requirements.

12.2 All AIDA Members of any type commit themselves to respect the European Regulation EU 2016/679 (GDPR), as well as the national applicable laws. The terms "personal data", "processing", "controller", "joint controller", "processor", "personal data breach", "supervisory authority", "international organisation" have the meaning assigned to them in the GDPR.

In order to fulfill of AIDA's Objectives (Article 3), it is necessary to process the personal data of AIDA Students, AIDA Professors, AIDA Representatives and other AIDA Member persons (hereinafter "AIDA Data").

12.3 Internal AIDA information, which is necessary for AIDA operation, e.g., AIDA General Assembly and Management Board minutes, AIDA Representative and Deputy data is stored in the AIDA Google drive. AIDA Student and Lecturer data, as well as AIDA course data, which is necessary for AIDA operation, are stored internally in the AIDA portal. AIDA will use GDPR-compliant mailing lists of its Management Board and Committee members, Representatives, Students and Lecturers for its operations.

12.4 For the implementation of this Agreement and the fulfillment of AIDA's Objectives (Article 3) through AIDA operations (Article 6) and AIDA's Academic Rules (Article 9), AIDA General Assembly or AIDA Management Board also decide on the purposes and means of processing (AIDA Google Drive and AIDA portal) of the AIDA Data stored in them. Consequently, when AIDA Members process AIDA Data, they have the role of joint controller in accordance with the GDPR.

12.5 When an AIDA Member processes AIDA Data for its internal purposes, it has the role of an independent Controller.

12.6 AIDA Members, as joint controllers, taking into account Article 26 of the GDPR, the nature of the AIDA Data, the categories of Data Subjects, the purposes of the processing, the degree of involvement in the processing and the responsibilities of the coordinator, further agree on the following:

- a) AIDA's Data includes personal data such as identity data (name), contact details (in the form of e-mail), student performance in AIDA courses (grades, ECTS, remarks) concerning two categories of Data Subjects: the staff of AIDA Members (e.g., AIDA Lecturers) and AIDA Students.
- b) Each AIDA Member is committed to complying with the requests of the Data Subjects addressed to it. Upon receipt of a request regarding AIDA Data, the AIDA Member informs the Coordinator no later than 5 days from receipt. The Coordinator and the AIDA Member who received the request, investigate whether other AIDA Members are involved in the satisfaction of the request. The involved AIDA Members agree to assist in the satisfaction of the request by providing the appropriate information or taking action and following up on the request in compliance with the GDPR and their national legislation.
- c) AIDA Members are obliged to inform the AIDA coordinator without delay and in any case in no more than 24 hours after becoming aware of a possible AIDA Data breach. If possible, this notification should already contain detailed information about the breach. The AIDA Coordinator immediately investigates the breach and informs all AIDA Members affected by the breach within a maximum of 12 hours, providing as detailed information about the incident as possible. Affected AIDA Members subject to the provisions of the GDPR are responsible for the notification and communication obligations under Articles 33 and 34 of the GDPR vis-à-vis the supervisory authority and Data Subjects affected by a personal data breach under their respective responsibility. If the incident occurs under the responsibility of more than one of the AIDA Members, the Coordinator and those AIDA Members consult with each other on how to proceed. Affected AIDA Members shall immediately take all measures in their areas of responsibility that are necessary to address or prevent data protection breaches.
- d) If AIDA Data is transferred to an AIDA Member established in a country outside the European Economic Area (third country) or is an international organization, the Coordinator shall ensure that the transfers are made on the basis of an adequacy decision (Article 45 GDPR) or subject to appropriate safeguards (Article 46 GDPR) including the Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs) of Article 46.2(c) of the GDPR. In the absence of appropriate safeguards, the Coordinator and the AIDA Member agree and undertake to base the transfer to the SCCs of Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/914 of 4 June 2021, applying the clauses of MODULE ONE: Transfer controller to controller or in one of the derogations for specific cases in Article 49.1 of the GDPR; where justified can be.
- e) The AIDA Coordinator takes all appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect AIDA Data including: the use of end-to-end encrypted channels to access the data, organization of roles and access rights, strong password policy, backups. Coordinator enables AIDA Google drive with a Google Workplace for Education licence to ensure full compliance of Google as processor with the GDPR.

a)

Signatures

AS WITNESS The Members have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be duly signed by the undersigned authorized representatives as follows:

For AIDA Coordinator:

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Name, Capacity, date

For AIDA Full Member:

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Name, Capacity, date

For AIDA Associate Member:

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Name, Capacity, date

For AIDA Research & Industry Member:

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Name, Capacity, date