Benelux AI Newsletter

Would you like to announce your own events on the BNVKI website and newsletter? Send an email to events@bnvki.org! Also reports of past events are welcome. If you have other news or contributions for the BNVKI newsletter, these can be sent to editor@bnvki.org.

ZJULogAI: International Conferences on Logic and Artificial Intelligence at Zhejiang University

The International Conferences on Logic and Artificial Intelligence at Zhejiang University is organized by the Zhejiang University – University of Luxembourg Joint Laboratory on AIs, Robotics and Reasoning (ZLAIRE). Remote ZJULogAI (CLAR, AWPL, and GCAI) will take place as a three-day online event using Zoom on October 26 (Day 1), October 30 (Day 2), and November 2 (Day 3), 2020.

With their special focus theme on Explainable AI, the conferences intend to promote the interplay between logical approaches and machine learning-based approaches in order to make AI more transparent and accountable.

Invited speakers:

- Christoph Benzmüller (Freie Universität Berlin): Ethico-legal governance of intelligent artificial agents — Can post-hoc normative reasoning competencies prevent AI systems from going rogue?

- Claude Sammut (University of New South Wales, Australia): T.B.A.

- Dag Westerståhl (Stockholm University): Notes on Compositionality: what, why, and how? (joint work with Alexandru Baltag and Johan van Benthem)

- Fei Wu (Zhejiang University, China): Big data intelligence: from correlation discovery to casual reasoning

- Marc van Zee (Google AI): Why knowledge representation matters for machine learning

For a detailed program, please check the website:

http://www.xixilogic.org/zjulogai/program/

Everyone is welcome to all sub-events of ZjuLogAI! Registration to Remote ZJULogAI is free of charge but required: http://www.xixilogic.org/zjulogai/registration/.

Read more

Flanders AI Impulse Program

Flanders AI Impulse Program

The Ministry of Economy, Science and Innovation in Flanders has made 32 million euros per year available for the Flanders AI Impulse program ensuring Flanders' leadership and attractiveness for future investments in AI technology and applications by focusing on selected AI disciplines that are strategically important for Flanders and in which Flanders has internationally recognized leadership.

The Flanders AI Impulse program is centred around three pillars:

1. The Flanders AI Research Program: Strategic Basic Research (12 million euros)

2. The Flanders AI Implementation Program: Technology Transfer and Industrial Applications (15 million euros)

3. Flanders AI Supporting activities (ethics, education and training) (5 million euros)

The Flanders AI Research Program started in July 2019.
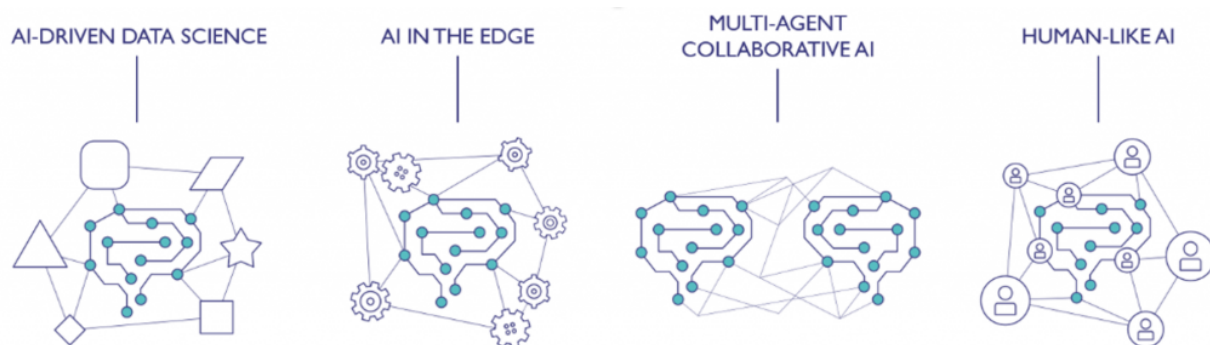
Flanders AI Research Program

Challenge-based research with demand-driven impact

The program focuses on domains of strategic importance in Flanders that have a large market potential for which Flanders can be uniquely positioned as early adopters.

For the coming years, the program will **focus** on **use cases** within **three application domains**: Healthcare, Industry 4.0, and Government & Citizens.

Review of the strategic needs of Flanders in the coming years, might lead to the addition of or shift to new domains, using AI for the challenges in society such as climate, mobility, the aging of people.

The analysis of the needs in the focus domains has led to defining the **four research themes or research challenges** the program will focus on.

AI-DRIVEN DATA SCIENCE   AI IN THE EDGE   MULTI-AGENT COLLABORATIVE AI   HUMAN-LIKE AI

For each of the above domains and research challenges, concrete **proofs-of-concepts** will be developed as demonstrators of the match of the research results with the needs from the application domains.

Validation of this challenge-based research with demand-driven impact will be done by the Flemish industry and an International Advisory Board. While the focus in the coming years is on the above-mentioned domains, the results will be more widely applicable in other domains as well. It is the aim that the demonstrators or proofs-of-concepts serve as the entry point for the Technology Transfer and Industrial Application pillar of the AI impulse program, in which companies can tailor the results of the research to towards their specific needs.

The research program builds on existing strengths in Flanders: the Flemish government wants to further develop the current centers demonstrating excellent AI research. The

partners in the AI research program are 5 Flemish universities (KU Leuven, UGent, VUBrussel, UAntwerpen, UHasselt), the four strategic research centers (imec, VIB, VITO, Flanders Make) and Sirris. Agoria and VOKA support the program and facilitate the interaction with the Flemish Industry.

Read more

Maastricht University's AI bachelor's programme changes name

As of 1 September 2020, Maastricht University's AI bachelor's programme – part of the KION framework for Dutch AI programmes – has a new name: Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. It was previously called Data Science and Knowledge Engineering.

The new name better reflects the curriculum, which draws from Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science and Applied Mathematics to teach students how to extract knowledge from large amounts of data. It's the second time the name has been updated since the programme's start in 1992.

Read more: https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/news/data-science-and-knowledge-engineering-bachelors-programme-changes-name

Read more

Vacancies in the BNVKI board

The BNVKI board is looking for two new members:

- We are looking for someone with a **non-academic affiliation** for the position "**AI & Industry**" in the board, focusing on establishing, maintaining and promoting contacts between academic AI research and industry.

- We are looking for a **new editor of the BNVKI newsletter**, who will be responsible for providing content for the newsletter which typically appears two times per year. This is preferably a **PhD student**.

The BNVKI board meets about 6 times per year (1x in person, and 5x digitally). If you are interested in joining the BNVKI board, please contact info@bnvki.org before November 1st 2020.

[Read more](#)

VSNU Kennistafel AI

In April 2020, the VSNU (Association of Universities in the Netherlands) and NFU (Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres) have set up a 'Kennistafel AI'. The aim of this 'knowledge table' is to coordinate the AI activities of the Dutch universities across all disciplines, in order to provide joint input to relevant bodies such as the Dutch AI Coalition (https://nlaic.com/). All universities (including UMCs) are represented in the knowledge table via one member and one deputy member, who have been nominated by the respective executive boards. More information can be found on: https://www.vsnu.nl/kennistafel-ai.html.

[Read more](#)

Vacancy @ KU Leuven: Innovation Manager in the Field of Learning and Reasoning within AI

The Industrial Research Fund (IOF) of KU Leuven forms a bridge between strategic basic research, technological innovations and industrial collaborations. Based on cooperations with KU Leuven research groups and different stakeholders from industry and society, we aim to broaden our valorization portfolio and to increase the transfer of knowledge. We have a team of more than 40 experienced innovation managers involved in the development of practical and innovative technological solutions based on the expertise and infrastructure of the research groups within KU Leuven.

We are looking for an innovation manager to further develop and support the valorization strategy of the DTAI Section. The DTAI (Declarative Languages and Artificial Intelligence, https://dtai.cs.kuleuven.be) Section of the Department of Computer Science of KU Leuven aims at the development of methods, algorithms and

software for integrating learning and reasoning within AI, with applications in many fields in science and engineering (e.g. Sports Analytics, Anomaly Detection, Prognostics, Automating Data Science, Automated Engineering Assistant). The Section consists of 8 professors, 7 postdoctoral researchers and around 40 PhD researchers. The research theme is on integrated learning and reasoning approaches, with a particular emphasis on topics such as probabilistic programming, statistical relational AI and learning, knowledge representation and reasoning, functional and declarative languages.

Apply by October, 2020.
For more information see https://www.kuleuven.be/personeel/jobsite/jobs/55713664

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[Read more](#)

BNAIC/BENELEARN 2020

BNAIC/BENELEARN 2020 will take place in Leiden: https://bnaic.liacs.leidenuniv.nl/

BNAIC/BeneLearn 2020 is the reference AI & ML conference for Belgium, Netherlands & Luxemburg. The combined conference will take place on 19 & 20 November 2020 in fully virtual format online.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Paper submission deadline: August 28, 2020

Author notification: October 5, 2020

Camera-ready submission deadline: October 26, 2020

All deadlines are at 23:59, AoE time zone.

Conference: November 19-20, 2020

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TOPICS OF INTEREST

The conference accepts publications in the broad areas of AI and Machine learning. A list of topics is available in the following website: https://bnaic.liacs.leidenuniv.nl/

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PRIZES

Just like previous years, there will be prizes for the best type A paper (regular paper), the best demonstration, the best type D paper (thesis abstract) and the best poster.

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PRE-PROCEEDINGS & POST-PROCEEDINGS

All contributions should be written in English, using the Springer CCIS/LNCS format (see http://www.springer.com/gp/computer-science/lncs/conference-proceedings-guidelines) and submitted electronically via EasyChair: https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=bnaicbenelearn2020 Submission implies the willingness of at least one author to register for BNAIC/BENELEARN 2020 and present the paper. Further information on pre and post-proceedings (Springer's CCIS) are available on our website https://bnaic.liacs.leidenuniv.nl/

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