



# Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico

Direzione Generale per la Politica Industriale, la Competitività e le Piccole e Medie Imprese

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF A GROUP OF EXPERTS FOR THE DRAFTING OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Artificial Intelligence (hereinafter: **AI**) is going to radically transform many sectors of the economic and social life, from healthcare, to industry, farming and transports. Its impact on society is considered so relevant to be comparable to that of steam engine or electricity.

Nonetheless, it brings new challenges and unprecedented regulatory issues, but also leads to new opportunities from which society, employment, public administrations, public services and the competitiveness of the industry can hugely benefit.

It is a crucial priority for Italy – as the Minister of Economic Development, Luigi Di Maio has already mentioned in his programmatic lines – to deepen the knowledge of the AI and the related juridical issues, to increase public and private investments in AI and related technologies, in order to meet at least the levels reached by Asian and North American countries.

Some European countries have already launched their AI national strategies in order to boost investments and to establish ethical and juridical basis to encourage its development.

Besides being a part of the EU framework programmes for research and innovation since 2004, the AI topic is also part of the EU Commission strategy for “Digitising European Industry” (COM (2016) 180 final) and a keystone in the “renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy” (COM (2017) 479 final).

Moreover, with its Communication on “Artificial intelligence in Europe” of April 2018 (COM (2018) 237 final), the European Commission has proposed a combined approach, in order to allow the society and the industries to seize the opportunities offered by AI but also to address the emerging challenges, stressing that introducing AI in all of the economic sectors is a crucial factor for the competitiveness of the EU. Member States are encouraged to develop a National Strategy on AI, aiming at ensuring that all EU citizens are put in the conditions of taking part to the digital transformation and at ensuring adequate funding and resources to the IA, in accordance with the values and fundamental rights of the European Union.



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## 2. FEATURES, GOALS AND COMPOSITION OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON AI

Bearing all this in mind, in order to prepare the Strategy, the Ministry of Economic Development sets up a Group of experts on AI (hereinafter: the Group), whose members shall be of proven and relevant competence and experience in AI and its applications.

The Group will be chaired by the Minister or his delegate, and will be composed of:

- The Director General of the DG for Industrial Policy, Competitiveness and Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises of the Ministry of economic development, or his delegate;
- the Legal Counsel to the Minister of Economic Development in the fields of communications and digital innovation;
- one representative from the Cabinet of the Minister of Economic Development.

(hereinafter all referred to as “Ministry’s representatives”)

The Group is then composed of up to 30 members, of which:

- ten representing enterprises operating in the field of AI;
- ten representing research centres, academics, think-thanks;
- ten representing the labour market, the professions, the third sector, the consumers and in general the civil society.

The Group will provide the Ministry with its technical and scientific support in the drafting a national strategy on AI.

The national strategy on AI will specifically address policies and tools in order to:

- improve, coordinate and strengthen the research in the AI field;
- promoting public and private investments in AI, also benefitting from the dedicated EU funds;
- attract talents and develop business in the field of AI;
- encourage the development of the data-economy, paying particular attention to the spreading and valorisation of non-personal data, adopting the better standards of interoperability and cybersecurity;



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- a comprehensive review of the legal framework with specific regard to safety and responsibility related to AI-based products and services;
- conduct analysis and evaluations of the socio-economic impact of development and widespread adoption of AI-based systems, along with proposals for tools to mitigate the encountered issues;

The Group will consider and promote in its work bearing in mind that the development of AI systems sees manhood interacting with intelligent machines, and the necessity of giving and explanation to the decisions taken based on algorithms. The Group will adopt a “*human centric*” approach, focusing on reducing any possible impact on society and employment, and promoting a smooth integration between AI technologies, labour market, workers and citizens.

In its first meeting, the Group will agree on its rules of procedures, also splitting into sub-groups on specific aspects, to guarantee the efficiency and swiftness of its work, in order for the Ministry to adopt the definitive Strategy by March 2019, after having submitted the draft to a public consultation.

### **3. SELECTION CRITERIA AND APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS.**

The members of the Group are nominated by a Minister’s Decree, once an internal Commission of the Minister will have assessed the applications. Their mandate lasts for six months, starting from the first meeting of the Group, it can be renewed, and in any case, it lasts until the Strategy is adopted by the Ministry.

The interest individuals and organisations are invited to submit their applications to the Ministry. They have to possess the following requisites of proven experience and professionalism, which will be used by the Commission as evaluation criteria while selecting the applications:

- proven and relevant competence and experience, in the IA and its applications, including the technological, commercial, legal and scientific expertise relevant to the development of the AI Strategy;
- proven capacity to actually represent the position of interest of the stakeholders.

The candidates must possess the following requisites of compatibility, which they have to specifically declare:



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- they have not been convicted, even with a sentence that has not become definitive, for the offenses indicated in Chapter I, Title II, Book II of the Penal Code pursuant to art. 35(a) paragraph 1, c) of the legislative decree 30 March 2001, n. 165;
- they are not prosecuted in an ongoing penal proceeding;
- they do not find themselves in situations of incompatibility pursuant to legislative decree no. 39/2013 or in situation of conflict of interests which, in accordance with the current law framework, may preclude the participation to the Group's activities.

The members of the Group are not entitled to any compensation, indemnity, payment of attendance fees nor reimbursements. The Group operates without charges on public finance.

#### 4. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The applications must be completed using the form available on the Ministry's website [www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it](http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it), and candidates will have to assess the compliance to the abovementioned requisites, pursuant to Articles 46 e 47, D.P.R. n. 445/2000.

A CV dated and signed shall also be provided, along with a photocopy of a valid ID and a cover letter (max. 2 pages) explaining the reason for applying and proposing the candidate's vision of AI and its impacts on industry, work and society, and suggestions of policy regarding research, development, employment and welfare, as well as any other useful and relevant material to support the application.

The application and the CV shall also be accompanied by the authorization to process personal data with regard only to the current procedure, in accordance with current law framework on the protection of personal data.

The application shall be presented within the period starting from the date of publication of this call for applications and by 12am of 15 October 2018 and must be sent via e-mail to the certified e-mail address [dgpicpmi.ai@pec.mise.gov.it](mailto:dgpicpmi.ai@pec.mise.gov.it), indicating in the subject line of the email **"Call for applications for the selection of members of a group of experts for the drafting of a National Strategy on artificial intelligence"**.

The Ministry of Economic Development take no responsibility in the event of dispersion of communications or delayed receiving of the application after the deadline for reasons which imply no fault of the administration or to major force events.



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Applications with incomplete documentation, not signed and presented or received after the deadline will not be considered.

For the purposes of compliance with the deadline for the submission of the applications, the receipt of the certified e-mail system will be considered a valid proof.

## **5. OFFICIAL IN CHARGE**

The official in charge of the present proceeding is Fabiola Bechelli, Head of II Division “Legal and regulatory affairs”, DG for industrial policy, competitiveness and small and medium-sized enterprises.

## **6. PUBLICITY OF THE PROCEDURE**

The present call for application is uploaded on the website of the Ministry of Economic Development ([www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it](http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it)).

The Minister of Economic Development, after the deadline for sending the applications and after the evaluation conducted by the aforementioned Commission, appoints within 30 days the members of the Group.

The outcome of the procedure is communicated on the website of the Ministry of Economic Development ([www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it](http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it)).

Rome, 14 September 2018

The Director General