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Shaping Europe's digital future - EU AI Act

Report on the EU AI Act with a focus on Large Language Models and machine translation systems

By Patrick Jungo - Independent AI Governance Specialist

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Dear Translators,

This summary of the EU AI Act aims to demonstrate to the translation industry and all translators why they can no longer afford to ignore AI Governance.

By Patrick Jungo, AI Governance Specialist

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Why the Translation Industry Should Start Focusing on AI Governance, Now!

EU AI Act

The AI Act is the first comprehensive legal framework on AI, specifically addressing the risks associated with its use. The AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689, laying down rules on artificial intelligence) provides AI developers and deployers with clear **requirements and obligations** regarding specific uses of AI. The deadline for implementing these regulations is generally two years.

Use of AI Large Language Models (LLMs)

Since this text is primarily aimed at users of machine translation systems (Google Translate, ChatGPT, DeepL, etc.), here is the most noteworthy point about using machine translation:

More and more, machine translation models are based on AI systems in the form of Large Language Models (LLMs). Other technologies that do not rely on LLMs will no longer be competitive in the future (and many already aren't).

While LLMs enable better and more powerful translations, it is challenging to fully oversee all of their capabilities.

Therefore, the AI Act introduces **transparency obligations** for all large language models to ensure a better understanding of these models, along with **additional risk management obligations**. These obligations include **self-assessment, mitigation of systemic risks, reporting of serious incidents, conducting tests and model evaluations**, as well as meeting **cybersecurity requirements**.

The regulation has a future-proof approach, allowing the rules to adapt to technological changes. This requires ongoing **quality and risk management** by providers.

Attention: The term "provider" in the context of the EU AI Act refers not only to the supplier but also to companies or organizations that develop, place on the market, or use an AI system.

Large companies, as was the case with the introduction of data protection, will establish their own **AI Governance departments**. Meanwhile, smaller translation agencies, and freelance translators will rely on external specialists to meet all the requirements and obligations regarding specific uses of AI.

By adopting an **AI Governance strategy**, the use of AI can be fostered, and efforts can be directed towards ensuring future compliance with the AI Act.