Apply AI: Pilot of the “Science for AI” Pillar of RAISE (“Resource for AI science in Europe”)

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**4**
Támogatás projektenként:	**17M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

This pilot supports the Apply AI Strategy particularly its research and innovation efforts, which aims to advance core AI capabilities, especially in frontier AI, and support fundamental AI research. The initiative will pool strategic resources to push the technological frontiers of AI and drive scientific breakthroughs, ensuring that the project contributes to the EU's goal of maintaining European leadership in AI research.

The selected consortium will be composed by leading European AI research institutes. These AI research institutes should be entities with legal structure, dedicated facilities and, a significant number of research teams focusing on AI research. The consortium will pilot a network of excellent European AI research institutes that will collaboratively address fundamental AI research topics, pushing the frontier of the domain. Participants will cooperate within a virtual institute, attracting talents, stimulating industrial initiatives, providing inputs for moonshot projects and developing research agendas for the ones retained by the EC.

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Next-Generation AI Agents for Real-World Applications in the ApplyAI sectors (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics)

HORIZON-CL4-2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-02

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**5**
Támogatás projektenként:	**19M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**2**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Key aspects in designing effective AI agents include robust planning, reasoning, and search mechanisms that allow agents to approach complex tasks by breaking them down into structured subgoals.
Potential research areas include enhancing AI agent autonomy through advanced self-planning and self-optimization capabilities, enabling agents to improve their decision-making and strategic planning. Other research directions include innovation in memory-augmented LLM agents to facilitate robust long-term reasoning and lifelong learning; developing advanced multi-agent frameworks specifically tailored for collaborative agents, including research on AI agent frameworks based on mixed AI architectures, and advancing multimodal reasoning capabilities to enable real-world applications.

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Apply AI: Next-Generation Agile and Intelligent Robotics Platforms for Industrial and Service Applications (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics)

HORIZON-CL4-2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-03

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**5**
Támogatás projektenként:	**12-13M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**2**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Proposals should target robotic systems addressing high impact needs in strategic industrial and service sectors. These systems should focus on enhanced mobility, autonomy, and simplified control architectures to support safe, efficient, and flexible operation. Integration of advanced sensors is essential to enable reliable human-robot interaction, especially in rare or unpredictable safety-critical scenarios, addressing current limitations of AI in such contexts. They should also include the design of secure and efficient communication protocols to ensure interoperability between robotic systems and digital frameworks or multi-agent environments. To ensure practical uptake, projects are expected to demonstrate clear pathways to scalability and commercial deployment, engage with industry partners and end-users for validation, adopt a safety-product approach.

Coordination with HORIZON-CL4-2025-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-05, focused on soft robotics, is encouraged to maximise impact and ensure complementarity in advancing physical capabilities of next-generation robotic systems.

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Robotics for Manufacturing: Advancing Core Skills through Technical Challenges (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics)

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-08

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**5**
Támogatás projektenként:	**18M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

The proposed project aims to significantly enhance robotics capabilities in manufacturing by developing advanced robotics. By leveraging the use of next-generation AI, including generative AI, to enable robots to better adapt to real-world environments and interact with human operators, and focusing on reconfigurability, the project will develop industry-agnostic solutions that can be easily adapted to different manufacturing environments. One of the key use cases for this project will be the automotive industry, where advanced robotics can significantly enhance production efficiency and adaptability.

The project will create a comprehensive framework for robotics skills development in manufacturing, including the initial definition of three technical challenges that must be clearly described at proposal stage, with evidence of their industrial relevance and potential impact. The project will organize a multi-stage competition for each of the three identified technical challenges.

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Advanced local digital twins using AI for Early warning and preparedness

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-09

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**7**
Támogatás projektenként:	**6M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Local Digital Twins will be built for floods preparedness, to estimate areas at risk and potential damage. No rigid functions are to be used, but by more dynamic set of descriptive features of buildings that can be sourced from digital models (such as geometrical parameters, urban morphology and socio-economic values). High-resolution hazard models (hydrological and hydraulic models) of the local area.

The solutions will leverage AI algorithms to model river systems (including hydrological and hydraulic processes) in areas near cities taking into account detailed terrain info. This approach aims to simulate and predict the damage processes in urban areas caused by disaster-prone scenarios, such as heavy rainfall impacting nearby river basins.

All the results are to be open source as much as possible and transferable to low-income countries through open platforms.

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Grand Challenge on Quantum Sensors for Inertial Navigation

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Coordination & Support Action**
TRL szint:	**8**
Támogatás projektenként:	**0,5-2M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1-4**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Projects are expected to establish a comprehensive technical and financial roadmap that demonstrates the potential of the proposed Q-INS solutions, and at least deliver reduced-scale prototypes in one of the following two categories:

Category 1 (cold-atoms Q-INS): Q-INS based on cold-atom interferometry (or other technology of at least equivalent performance) featuring long-term navigation accuracy (<10 m/hour) due to reduced drift with respect to commercial Inertial Measurement Units (IMUs). These systems will be co-developed with end-users and field-demonstrated in a ship and/or a plane for aviation or maritime applications.

Category 2 (Chip-scale Q-INS): Low C-SWAP Q-INS measuring acceleration, rotation rate, and/or magnetic field, aimed at the implementation of chip-scale sensors based on defect centers and vacancies in crystals or on warm atomic vapours (including nuclear magnetic resonance), for applications e.g. in small satellites, UAVs, and autonomous transport.

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Standards for Quantum Technologies

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-12

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Coordination & Support Action**
TRL szint:	**-**
Támogatás projektenként:	**1M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

The CSA will coordinate and support standardisation activities for quantum technologies in areas such as quantum computing, communication, sensing, and control. This action will support and accelerate the development and adoption of European and international standards for quantum technologies, enhancing interoperability, quality assurance, and trust in quantum systems. It will strengthen Europe's leadership in the global quantum standardisation landscape and ensure that European industrial and research priorities are well represented and integrated into emerging standards.

Proposals should build on the roadmaps of European standardisation organisations to standardise results from quantum projects funded under Horizon Europe, the Digital Europe Programme, and EuroHPC JU in line with stakeholder priorities, and foster an active industrial standardisation community to promote engagement and uptake within the European quantum industry.

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Large-Scale Photonic Quantum Computing Platform Technologies

HORIZON-CL4-2026-DIGITAL-EMERGING-18

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**7**
Támogatás projektenként:	**10M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

This action will establish a strategic European initiative to develop scalable, modular, and interoperable photonic quantum computing platforms. Proposals must address and provide credible solutions to at least two major technical roadblocks currently limiting the advancement of photonic quantum computing such as:

- the lack of deterministic, high-efficiency photonic entanglement and loss-tolerant architectures suitable for fault-tolerant scaling
- the absence of a standardised, integrated control stack combining photonic hardware, firmware, and system software with reliable benchmarking across platforms

The topic must be led by a startup with demonstrated expertise in photonic quantum computing. The startup must collaborate with relevant academic, industrial, and RTO partners to ensure both technological depth and market orientation. The consortium must include at least one major end-user whose operational needs will shape the platform design, and whose infrastructure will host the field demonstration of the project's results.

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Networking and Future Photonics Strategy (Photonics Partnership)

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-14

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Coordination & Support Action**
TRL szint:	**-**
Támogatás projektenként:	**3M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Projects should contribute to the continued coordination and strategic support to the broader European photonics ecosystem, fostering a transparent, inclusive governance model and bottom-up roadmap development.

Proposals should include:

- Development and regular updating of the European Photonics Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) and associated roadmaps
- Coordination and monitoring of Partnership-funded R&I and CSA projects.
- Outreach, advocacy, and stakeholder engagement, including alignment with national, regional, and European photonics strategies and input into broader EU policy initiatives
- Provision of a unified communication platform for the European photonics community and strengthened public communication on the impact of photonics
- Facilitation of collaboration with other European Partnerships, strategic initiatives, and financial institutions to identify synergies and improve access to innovation financing.

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Strengthening the cooperation of semiconductor-intensive EU regions

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-15

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Coordination & Support Action**
TRL szint:	**-**
Támogatás projektenként:	**1M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Regions have an essential role to play in the implementation of EU policies in the field of semiconductors. Within their remit they facilitate establishing industrial activities related to semiconductor production and services by providing for example construction permits, energy, water, infrastructure and often funding. They help creating regional ecosystems around big fabs and contribute to structuring clusters of actors across the value chain. The topic addresses semiconductor-intensive regions and regional industrial semiconductor clusters which are explicitly supported by regional governments.

The action should pursue its objectives by means of

- Identifying key local actors in the semiconductor supply chain and their common needs
- Developing a joint strategy to strengthen the cooperation of EU semiconductor intensive regions
- Exploring cooperation with the Chips Competence
- Evidence gathering on obstacles to semiconductor production investments

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Fostering 2-Dimensional Materials (2DM) based emerging and enabling technologies

HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-17

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Coordination & Support Action**
TRL szint:	**-**
Támogatás projektenként:	**1M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 január 15**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 április 15**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Proposals should provide key support functions fostering a dynamic R&I community in 2DM-based emerging and enabling technologies, facilitating synergies and collaboration among relevant EU-funded projects – including those of the Graphene Flagship - and associated entities.
Proposals should provide support to the relevant actors in R&I roadmapping, innovation, standardization activities in 2DM-based technologies
Proposals should establish and keep up-to-date European and global R&I and funding landscapes in 2DM-based technologies.
Proposals should relay and amplify communication and dissemination activities of the actors in the domain of graphene and other 2DMs.

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AI improved advanced manufacturing and production processes in factories (Made in Europe and AI, Data and Robotics partnerships)

HORIZON-CL4-2026-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-51 -two-stage

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**6**
Támogatás projektenként:	**4-6M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**5-7**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2025 december 16**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 március 17** **2026. október 13**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

New solutions based on innovative enabling technologies such as deep learning, large language models, digital twins, synthetic data, and data-driven models allow manufacturers to improve production system efficiency, elevate product quality, and proactively address critical challenges in energy consumption and carbon footprint. Proposals should produce dedicated innovative explainable AI based solutions in advanced manufacturing for at least two of the following:

- improve processes and operational efficiency and reduce environmental impact of processes and factories through dynamic optimal process and production parameter selection exploiting AI for process modelling and/or for optimisation.
- avoid the production of defective parts using AI to detect process drift and anomalies and correct proactively defects in real time; and
- maximise the fraction of regenerated components or materials used in the production using AI to optimize the material flow.

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Innovative AI methods and technologies for the process industries (Processes4Planet and AI, Data and Robotics partnerships)

HORIZON-CL4-2026-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-53 -two-stage

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**6**
Támogatás projektenként:	**4-6M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**2-3**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2025 december 16**
Beadási határidő:	**2026 március 17** **2026. október 13**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Drastically improved AI methods and technologies hold transformative potential for the process industries, enabling advancements in process design, operational efficiency, and faster innovation across the entire lifecycle of plants and products. By using different AI approaches such as multimodal generative AI, foundation models, and agentic AI, the industry can move beyond conventional AI applications as e.g. predictive maintenance and quality control toward more intelligent, adaptive, and creative solutions.

Proposals should produce dedicated innovative AI-based solutions for the process industry for one of the following scopes:

- More effective and faster development of new materials and processes
- Competitive and sustainable production, reducing the negative environmental impact of industry
- Reduction of risks for the health of the workforce and for the environment and making workplaces in the process industries more attractive.

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EU Frontier AI Initiative: Developing frontier AI solutions that are safe and computationally efficient within Apply AI

HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**4**
Támogatás projektenként:	**44M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 november 17**
Beadási határidő:	**2027 március 18**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Ensuring the safety of AI systems is essential, especially as AI models become increasingly sophisticated and pervasive. Potential research areas to be considered include addressing misalignment, particularly the unintentional misalignment of large AI models. Research could explore methods to detect and mitigate sophisticated misbehaviour, such as alignment faking, reward hacking of human oversight, and encoded reasoning in chain-of-thought (CoT). Additionally, research could focus on enhancing robustness against adversarial attacks, jailbreaks, and backdoors. Further potential areas include advancing transparency and interpretability of models through white-box techniques, activation monitoring, and externalization of model reasoning, significantly contributing to the trust and safe adoption of powerful AI solutions.

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Apply AI: Challenge-Driven AI Innovation Booster in Apply AI prioritised sectors (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics)

HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-04

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**5**
Támogatás projektenként:	**14M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**4**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 november 17**
Beadási határidő:	**2027 március 18**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

The Challenge-Driven AI Innovation Booster aims to drive significant technological progress and innovation in Apply AI prioritised sectors through challenge-oriented, AI-powered solutions. This initiative seeks to boost Europe's developer community and the adoption of powerful, trustworthy AI solutions in four strategic domains such as:

- Healthcare: advanced AI will accelerate diagnostics and treatment plans, enhance robotic surgery, and improve patient care through predictive analytics.
- Manufacturing: advanced AI will optimize production processes, improve quality control and product design, and enable predictive maintenance.
- Autonomous driving: advanced AI will enhance vehicle safety, improve navigation systems, and optimize traffic management.
- Environment and climate change: advanced AI can will aid in climate modelling, enhance resource management, and improve disaster response strategies.

Each proposal should focus exclusively on one of the four key sectors mentioned above.

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AI-Driven Robotics for Industry: Enabling System Integration and Adoption (Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics)

HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-05

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**7**
Támogatás projektenként:	**9M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**2**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 november 17**
Beadási határidő:	**2027 március 18**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

To maximise the impact and adaptability of deployed systems, the approach should consider the most appropriate tools to speed up integration processes and suitable AI design, training and inference methodologies, ensuring scalability, transferability, transparency, robustness, flexibility, and real-world applicability in diverse industrial environments, and should remain adaptable to the latest technological developments.
By bridging the gap between technology providers and end-users, these integrators will enable the creation of seamless, reliable and scalable robotics systems that can be easily adopted by industries, especially SMEs, thereby supporting more flexible and efficient production processes.
The project must deliver a deployable, modular integration framework, validated through at least three real-world industrial pilots covering different reference scenarios to demonstrate that the approach can be adapted to varied industrial needs and company sizes, including both SMEs and larger manufacturers.

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International cooperation in AI

HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-06

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**7**
Támogatás projektenként:	**1,5M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**2**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 november 17**
Beadási határidő:	**2027 március 18**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Cooperation through EU initiatives to strengthen local AI ecosystems in African countries fostering responsible AI development, north-south digital cooperation on AI, and sustainable AI innovation. Proposals should contribute to a smart, clean, and secure digital infrastructure by enabling AI technologies that are locally relevant and sustainable, empowers local actors and reflects the EU's emphasis on partner-driven development

The proposals will support international developing on AI by:

- Support the gathering and access to local data in line with EU's data strategy for the training and optimisation of existing AI algorithms developed in initiatives like AI for Public Good and GenAI for Africa.
- Establishment and support of Living Labs within local innovation hubs in low-income countries, fostering co-creation spaces.
- Tailored and contextualized AI-based solutions developed through a bottom-up approach, driven by the specific needs of low-income communities.

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Advanced integrated photonic devices for extended features and ultra-low power consumption (Photonics Partnership)

HORIZON-CL4-2027-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-03

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**6**
Támogatás projektenként:	**3-5M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**5-8**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 november 17**
Beadási határidő:	**2027 március 18**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

R&I should enhance the functionality, efficiency, and integration of photonic devices and circuits with a focus extended system performance. Action should address at least two of the following aspects:

- Enhanced performance through improved spectral purity, wavelength coverage and noise characteristics.
- Increased modulation or detection speeds going beyond the capability of existing PIC material platforms, improved signal-processing capabilities.
- Miniaturised, high-complexity photonic circuits scalable interconnects and electronics-photonics integration to improve performance, reliability, and cost-efficiency.
- Reduction of power consumption, lower optical losses, devices operable at higher temperatures to reduce cooling needs, and low-power circuit actuation and control.

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Horizon scanning and foresight in future enabling digital technologies

HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-10

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Coordination & Support Action**
TRL szint:	**-**
Támogatás projektenként:	**4M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**1**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 november 17**
Beadási határidő:	**2027 március 18**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Projects are expected to contribute to European leadership in foresight activities on future enabling technologies and their transformational potential in industrial, societal and environmental terms.
Proposals should establish a forum for emerging interdisciplinary areas and new technological visions.
Proposals should enable and support a broad range of participants (across disciplines in science and engineering, RTOs, industry sectors, stakeholders) to meet, mutually inspire, cooperate and develop together innovative ideas for future enabling digital technologies covering from fundamental research up to proof of concept.
Proposals should involve and be driven by representatives of the relevant actors of the field (e.g., academia, RTOs, industry including SMEs).

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New approaches for Human/AI collaboration for the workforce of the future (Made in Europe and AI, Data and Robotics partnerships)

HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-52-two-stage

Program:	**Horizon Europe Cluster 4**
Típus:	**Research & Innovation Action**
TRL szint:	**6**
Támogatás projektenként:	**4-6M EUR**
Támogatott projektek száma:	**5-7**
Pályázati felület megnyílik:	**2026 szeptember 22**
Beadási határidő:	**2027 február 2** **2027 szeptember 2**
Felhívás linkje:	LINK

Proposals should produce dedicated innovative AI approaches for human-machine collaboration in advanced manufacturing to be applied in at least two of following fields:

- Human-AI Co-Learning and knowledge capture to share competences, capture expert knowledge, , interactive mentoring to up-skill the workforce, support re-qualification and continuous training, leading to increased knowledge at factory level and avoiding loss of know-how
- Human-AI teamwork thanks to and innovative natural interaction models, enabling to control complexity in cognitive cooperating production systems, including planning activities at shop floor level.
- Interfaces with automation which automatically adapt to the need of the humans including different abilities and different cultural needs.

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