Harmonized Documentation Scheme for Trustworthy AI

**Source**: ETSI MTS AI Working Group

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# Background

The European AI regulation (EU) 2021/xxxx classifies AI use by risk level and imposes documentation, auditing, and process requirements on providers and deployers of AI systems. Thus, 'high-risk' AI systems must undergo a rigid conformity assessment and providers and deployers must provide a technical documentation demonstrating major properties of the AI system before they can enter the European market. The European AI Regulation (EU) 2021/xxxx sets out detailed requirements for the scope and manner of documentation.

# Objectives

Proliferation of non-standardised documentation, formats and approaches may lead to challenges with comparability, interoperability, and assessment of AI-enabled systems. Without a detailed and consistent technical documentation of the underlying system architecture, algorithmic design, model specifications, as well as the data sets being used, it is difficult or even impossible to assess the system’s capabilities and limitations, as well as quality properties such as robustness, transparency and bias on data, model, and system level.

The work on a harmonized documentation scheme for trustworthy AI will contribute to the implementation of the European AI Act by supporting the continuous and consistent documentation of quality related attributes for AI-enabled systems. Furthermore, a standardised documentation scheme, machine-readable formats, and interfaces will facilitate automation in certification and validation activities.

Besides planned activities on a harmonized documentation scheme for trustworthy AI, the MTS AI Working Group is also working on two other work items related to the testing and certification of AI systems which may benefit from the proposed work on a harmonized documentation scheme.

# Roadmap

An initial proposal for a new TTF starting in February 2023 aims to address the following topics:

* documentation requirements associated with the European AI Act and associated standardization activities,
* an overview on existing documentation approaches established in the industry, as well as
* recommendations for a harmonized documentation scheme considering regulatory requirements, different stakeholder profiles and industry best practices.

It is anticipated that the work on a harmonized documentation scheme for trustworthy AI will be performed along the following timeline:

* 2024: Requirements, survey of existing approaches and best practices, recommendations
* 2025: Technical specification and refinement of quality attributes and measures
* 2026: Human- and machine-readable format(s) and interface specifications