

Communication Report on AI Matchmaking Event¹

Wojciech Opiola²

1. Introduction

The AI Matchmaking Event, held online on March 4, 2025, was a collaborative effort under the FORTHEM Research, Innovation, and Transfer Mission. The event brought together researchers, academics, and industry professionals to discuss advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) and foster partnerships for future projects.

2. Objectives of the Event

The primary goals of the event were:

Facilitating networking opportunities for experienced researchers, early-stage researchers, and non-academic partners.

Enhancing collaboration among FORTHEM universities and external stakeholders in AI-related fields.

Promoting interdisciplinary research and joint initiatives in AI and related technologies.

Exploring AI's impact on various sectors, including education, healthcare, business, and governance.

3. Key Presentations and Discussions

3.1 FORTHEM Research, Innovation, and Transfer Mission, presented by Wojciech Opiola (University of Opole), the session outlined three strategic goals:

Making FORTHEM a center for excellent joint research projects.

Positioning FORTHEM as a leader in training early-stage researchers for diverse career paths.

Strengthening FORTHEM's role in innovation, policy-making, and research transfer.

3.2 AI Research and Development

Several research units presented their projects:

FUTURE Research Group (University of Opole): Discussed the ethical and societal challenges posed by AI advancements.

¹ The ChatGPT was used for editorial and language purposes (structuring the text)

² University of Opole; wopiola@uni.opole.pl

Medical Imaging Lab (University of Palermo): Highlighted AI applications in medical diagnostics and imaging.

TOPML (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz): Focused on optimizing machine learning models for industrial applications.

Collective Intelligence Research Group (University of Jyväskylä): Explored AI's role in human-machine collaboration.

Cross-Disciplinary AI Center (Université Bourgogne Europe - UBE): Presented research on AI applications in health sciences, smart transitions, and theoretical foundations for AI development.

TISS Lab (Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz): Focused on AI applications in sociology, social simulation, and innovation.

OMiLAB (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu - ULBS): Showcased AI research in robotics, IoT, cybersecurity, and digital farming applications.

AI and IoT Research Group (University of Agder - UiA): Covered AI-driven IoT solutions, embedded systems, and edge computing.

3.3 AI and Education

BA in Data Science (University of Valencia): Overview of multidisciplinary AI education combining computer science, mathematics, and social sciences.

Master Programs in AI (Various Universities): Presented AI-related master's programs including AI and IoT, medical imaging, and computer vision.

AI in Higher Education (University of Latvia): Discussed AI's role in personalized learning, automated grading, and student support.

3.4 AI's Societal Impact

AI and Ethics (University of Opole): Addressed regulatory challenges and ethical concerns regarding AI deployment.

AI in Media (University of Opole): Examined how AI is portrayed in popular science media and its influence on public perception.

AI and Policy (Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu): Explored AI's implications for law, public administration, and governance.

4. Activity Update Reporting

The event featured 19 speakers and had 94 registered participants from all FORTHEM partners as well as external non-academic attendees. At the beginning, 74 participants joined, with numbers fluctuating between 58 and 68 throughout the event. In total, 102 unique participants attended, categorized as follows:

University of Valencia (UV): 18

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu (ULBS): 17

University of Opole (UO): 15

Non-academic participants: 10

University of Jyväskylä (JYU): 8

University of Latvia (LU): 8

Université Bourgogne Europe (UBE): 8

University of Palermo (UNIPA): 6

Johannes Gutenberg University (JGU): 5

University of Agder (UiA): 1

Other institutions: 1

5. Key Outcomes and Future Collaboration

Several partnerships were initiated among researchers across different universities.

Plans for joint funding applications in AI research and education.

Establishment of a framework for AI policy recommendations.

Organization of future AI-focused workshops, conferences, and collaborative projects.

6. Conclusion

The AI Matchmaking Event successfully fostered interdisciplinary collaboration and strategic networking among AI researchers and professionals. The discussions provided valuable insights into AI's challenges and opportunities, setting the stage for future innovation and cooperation within the FORTHEN Alliance.