EARASHI

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Deliverable D1.6: First report on the collaboration with and contribution to the European ecosystem of AI, Data and Robotics

Work Package 1

Engage and Explore

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EARASHI project is dedicated to advancing European AI, Robotics, and Data ecosystems through strategic collaboration and stakeholder engagement. Recognizing the transformative potential of these technologies, EARASHI aims to foster innovation, drive economic growth, and address societal challenges. Task T1.4, a pivotal component of the EARASHI initiative, focuses on shaping the future of these ecosystems by creating synergies across the European landscape, enhancing resource value, and supporting the sustainability of AI, Robotics, and Data initiatives.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the activities to be undertaken and the strategic value generated by Task T1.4 '*Shaping the future of the European AI, Robotics and Data ecosystem'*. The task, led by a consortium of experts, is essential in establishing meaningful partnerships, integrating project results into broader European platforms, and actively engaging with significant actors in the AI, Robotics, and Data sectors. By leveraging the combined expertise and networks of the consortium members, Task T1.4 aims to build a robust ecosystem that supports innovation and sustainable development.

The objectives of Task T1.4 include fostering collaboration, enhancing existing European initiatives, and ensuring the future exploitability of project results. The task also emphasizes the importance of stakeholder engagement and the integration of educational materials from related work packages into broader initiatives. Through strategic planning, targeted engagement, and the execution of joint activities, EARASHI is positioned to make a significant impact on the European AI, Robotics, and Data landscapes.

The report details key activities such as engagement with relevant actors, collaboration with significant European projects, and partnerships with key platforms. It also highlights the benefits of these collaborations for both the EARASHI project and participating organizations. By demonstrating the added value of EARASHI's results, evaluating collaboration opportunities, and ensuring regional and national integration, Task T1.4 seeks to maximize the impact of the project's outcomes.

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1. Objectives and Scope

1.1 Objectives

- **Fostering Collaboration:** Establishing meaningful partnerships and collaborations to leverage stakeholder expertise and resources.

- **Enhancing European Initiatives:** Contributing to and enriching existing European initiatives within AI, Robotics, and Data sectors.

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Actively engaging with significant actors such as the PPP on AI, Data, and Robotics, and the euRobotics community.

- **Integrating Project Results:** Ensuring the results and educational materials from WP2 are integrated into broader European platforms and initiatives.

- **Supporting Exploitability:** Facilitating future exploitability of project results by connecting with regional and national initiatives.

1.2 Scope

The scope of Task T1.4 includes establishing collaborations with key European initiatives and platforms, leveraging the networks of the consortium partners, and ensuring the effective dissemination and utilisation of project outputs. This task aims to build a robust ecosystem that supports innovation and sustainable development in AI, Data and Robotics (ADR) sectors.

2. Key Activities and Collaborations

2.1 Engagement with Relevant Actors

- **PPP on AI, Data, and Robotics & euRobotics Community**
  - Through CECIMO and Flanders Make (FM), EARASHI can establish strong connections with the PPP on AI, Data, and Robotics, and the euRobotics community. This engagement will facilitate the dissemination of project results and foster collaborative research and development initiatives.
- **Role of CECIMO and FM:** CECIMO will leverage its extensive network within the machine tool and manufacturing sectors, while FM will bring in its expertise and connections within the research and academic communities.

2.2 Collaboration with CSA-HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01-02 Consortium

EARASHI will actively collaborate with the consortium funded through the CSA-HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01-02 project: AI4EUROPE and Adra-e . This collaboration will focus on:

- **Integration of Results:** Feeding relevant project outcomes and didactic materials developed in WP2 *'Human Centred industry learning paths and didactic material'* into the broader European ecosystem.

- **Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices to enhance the overall impact of the projects.

2.3 Partnerships with Key Platforms

EARASHI foresees collaborations with several key platforms, facilitated by the memberships of CECIMO, Steinbeis (SEZ), and FM:

- **AI-on-Demand Platform:** Integrating project results to support the AI community, https://www.ai4europe.eu/

- **Digital Industrial Platform for Robotics:** Contributing to the development and adoption of robotics solutions.

- **Data Platform:** Enhancing data utilization and management practices.

- **Industrial Forum and EFFRA:** Engaging with industry leaders and stakeholders to align project outputs with industrial needs and priorities.

2.4 Outreach and Communication

- **Value Presentation:** Demonstrating the added value of EARASHI's results to potential collaborators.

- **Collaboration Assessment:** Evaluating the most appropriate forms of collaboration, such as participation in working groups, brokerage services, and joint event organization.

- **Regional and National Integration:** Ensuring project results are integrated into relevant regional and national initiatives.

3. Benefits of Collaboration

3.1 For EARASHI Project

- **Long-term Collaboration:** Establishing sustainable partnerships with key actors in ADR sectors will ensure ongoing support and development beyond the project's lifespan.

- **Joint Research Roadmaps:** Collaborations will enable the creation of joint research initiatives and roadmaps, fostering innovation and strategic development.

- **Strategic Opportunities:** Access to a broader range of strategic opportunities will enhance the scope and impact of EARASHI.

- **New Project Opportunities:** Identifying and leveraging new project opportunities will facilitate continuous growth and development.

- **ADR Community Building:** Creating a cohesive AI, Data, and Robotics community will foster collaboration, innovation, and shared learning.

- **Dissemination of Opportunities:** Effective communication and dissemination of funding and training opportunities will enhance stakeholder engagement and project impact.

3.2 For Participating Organisations

- **Visibility and Influence:** Being part of a larger network will increase organisational visibility and influence in policy-making and trade union discussions related to AI, Data, and human-centric approaches.

- **Network Expansion:** Participating organisations will expand their networks and establish new, strategic partnerships.

- **Resource Optimisation:** Leveraging collective resources will optimise impact and efficiency.

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Access to a broader pool of knowledge and expertise will enhance organizational capabilities and innovation potential.

4. Implementation Plan

4.1 Strategic Planning

- **Stakeholder Identification:** Identifying key stakeholders and potential collaborators within the AI, Robotics, and Data ecosystems.
- **Engagement Strategies:** Developing targeted strategies to engage with identified stakeholders and foster meaningful collaborations.

4.2 Collaboration Framework

- **Joint Activities:** Planning and executing joint activities, such as research initiatives, workshops, and dissemination events.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of collaborations and ensure alignment with project objectives.

5. Types of Collaborations

Task T1.4 involves various types of collaborations, each designed to enhance the impact and integration of AI, Robotics, and Data initiatives across Europe. Below are the key types of collaborations, correlated with clear examples of successful collaboration activities.

5.1 Data Sharing and Access Collaboration

Objective: Facilitate the exchange and access to data across different platforms to enhance research and innovation.

Activities:

- Establish data-sharing protocols

- Create secure data repositories

Actions:

- Workshops on data protection, showcasing data-sharing best practices

5.2 Sharing Vision-Documents and White Papers

Objective: Promote a unified vision and shared knowledge through the distribution of vision-documents and white papers.

Activities:

- Develop and disseminate strategic documents

- Organise discussion forums

- Engage in policy advocacy

Actions:

- **Article in CECIMO Magazine:** Promoting the project results and sharing vision documents to a broad audience within the industry. **Publication date: 2 December 2024**.

  o The [CECIMO magazine](#) serves as a leading industry resource for the latest developments, trends, and insights in manufacturing technologies. It offers a wide range of editorial content, including feature articles, interviews, case studies and industry news. The magazine covers various topics such as machine tools, automation, additive manufacturing, robotics, digitalisation, sustainability and more. The CECIMO magazine targets key decision-makers, industry professionals, policy makers and academics across Europe.

- **EU 'Get Funded' Initiative:** Highlighting collaboration opportunities and promoting shared visions on the EARASHI website. The initiative started earlier this year and it will be continuously improved and updated. [EU 'Get Funded' - EARASHI](#)

5.3 Standardisation Recommendations

Objective: Contribute to the development of industry standards to ensure interoperability and consistency.

Activities:

- Participate in standardisation bodies

- Promote adoption across the industry

Actions:

- **Webinar with [CEN-CENELEC](#) on** *Standardisation Best Practices in Robotics.* Proposed date: **October 16, 2024.**

    o CEN (European Committee for Standardization) and CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) are two of the main European standardization organizations, responsible for developing and defining voluntary technical standards for a wide range of products and services across Europe. CEN focuses on standards in various sectors such as healthcare, construction, and consumer products, while CENELEC specializes in electrotechnical standards, covering electrical and electronic goods and services.

    o Both organizations aim to enhance market harmonization, facilitate trade, ensure safety, interoperability, and environmental protection, and promote innovation and competitiveness within the European Single Market. They work closely with international standards organizations like ISO and IEC to align European standards with global norms.

5.4 Impact on EU Policy & Regulations

Objective: Influence EU policy and regulatory frameworks to support the growth and development of AI, Robotics, and Data sectors.

Activities:

- Engage with policymakers

- Provide expert insights

- Contribute to regulatory consultations

Actions:

- **Participation to the [EFFRA Manufacturing Conference](#):**

    o Scheduled for **24-25 September 2024** in Brussels, this event will gather over 350 participants, including policymakers, industry representatives, and academia, to discuss critical topics such as geopolitical shifts in manufacturing strategies, achieving net-zero emissions, and cross-border collaborations. The conference, co-organised by EFFRA, EIT Manufacturing, and ManuFuture, presents an excellent opportunity to further the project's objectives through high-level discussions and networking.

    o EARASHI Consortium partners from CECIMO and Steinbeis will be present at the event.

- **Participation to the [CECIMO Brussels Forum](#):**

    o The upcoming CECIMO Brussels Forum, scheduled for **December 2, 2024**, in Brussels, is an event that brings together leading policymakers and industry leaders to discuss the critical

theme of "*Reindustrialising Europe: A Vision for Competitive Manufacturing*." The forum will address the urgent challenges facing the European manufacturing industry and outline strategies for revitalizing the sector by 2030. Participating in this event allows the EARASHI project to engage with influential stakeholders, thereby bolstering its industry presence and fostering strategic collaborations.

- **Participation to the AI, Data &Robotics Forum**

  o The European AI, Data, Robotics Forum (ADRF) is set for **November 4-5, 2024**, at the Evoluon in Eindhoven, Netherlands (https://adrforum.eu/about-adrf-2024). Organized by the AI, Data and Robotics Association (Adra) with the European Commission and AiNed, this event gathers industry leaders, researchers, and policymakers to shape the future of AI, data, and robotics in Europe. Themed "*European Sovereignty in AI, Data and Robotics*," the forum features visionary keynotes, panels, and sessions addressing critical industrial and societal topics. For the EARASHI project, participating in this event presents an opportunity to enhance networking, showcase innovations, and engage with key stakeholders, driving forward the European agenda in AI, data, and robotics.

- **Participation to the European Robotic Forum**

ERF2025 is set for **March 25-27, 2025** in Stuttgart, Germany (https://erf2025.eu/). Organized by euRobotics in cooperation with local co-host, ERF aims at strengthening Europe's competitiveness and ensure industrial leadership of manufacturers, providers and end-users of robotics technology-based systems and services. ERF gathers annually Researchers, engineers, managers, entrepreneurs, businesspeople, and public funding officers from all over Europe to discuss technology push and market pull and how innovations in robotics and robotics-related AI can be accelerated, taking into account topic such as sustainability, user-acceptance and thrust, etc. EARASHI project plans to organize a workshop on '*Innovative Robotics: Shaping Human-Centered Industries*' together with INVERSE project (https://www.inverse-project.org/): This objective is to 1) encompass progress in human-robot collaboration, elevated safety protocols, and enriched user interactions, 2) to examine how human-centered considerations influence innovation in other robotics contexts. These insights are crucial for shaping upcoming projects and industrial environments, ensuring robotics effectively meet both human requirements and industry expectations.

5.5 Common Booths in Technical Fairs / Events

Objective: Enhance visibility and showcase project results through joint participation in technical fairs and events.

Activities:

- Organise shared exhibition spaces

- Present collaborative research

- Network with industry stakeholders

Actions:

- **EMO Hannover 2025 Conference:**

    o Joint booth with the Jarvis Project to promote collaborative research. JARVIS is an EU-funded project aiming to enhance human-robot collaboration with a focus on user-centric approaches, involving 16 European organizations renowned for their research and industrial expertise. The project targets the development of AI-driven, multimodal interaction tools to improve robot cognition, intelligence, and collaboration fluidity. Its ultimate goal is to boost the EU industry's competitiveness by demonstrating scalable, flexible, and user-accepted HRI solutions.

    o CECIMO is part of the Jarvis consortium and owns the trademark for EMO Hannover, one of the largest trade shows in the manufacturing sector.

    o EMO Hannover is the world's leading trade fair for the metalworking industry, held biennially in Hannover, Germany. It showcases the latest innovations and advancements in manufacturing technology, including machine tools, manufacturing systems, precision tools, automated material flows, computer technology, industrial electronics, and accessories. The event attracts exhibitors and visitors from around the globe, serving as a major platform for networking, knowledge exchange, and business development.

    o Therefore, having a booth together with project Jarvis at EMO Hannover would provide EARASHI Project with visibility and networking opportunities. Furthermore, we are planning a joint conference focused on Human Centric AI, bringing together speakers from EARASHI and Jarvis to maximise reach.

- **CECIMO Brussels Forum 2024:**

    o As previously highlighted, the upcoming CECIMO Brussels Forum is scheduled for **December 2, 2024**. The EARASHI project will have a booth at the event, promoting the project results and providing participants with a platform to interact with part of the EARASHI consortium.

5.6 Webinars

Objective: Facilitate knowledge exchange and showcase project outcomes through interactive online sessions.

Activities:

- Organise thematic webinars

- Feature expert speakers from different projects

- Promote discussions on key topics

Actions:

- **Webinar in collaboration Project Jarvis:**

    o Scheduled for September 25th, with speakers from both projects, discussing the topic: *Cobots as Enablers in Predictive Maintenance and Sustainability*.

- **Webinar in Collaboration with CSA-HORIZON-CL4-2021-HUMAN-01-02 Consortium Projects:**

    o **AI4Europe**: This project focuses on creating an open, distributed, and sustainable platform for AI resources, ensuring easy access and engagement for various stakeholders in AI research and application. It aims to promote the sharing of AI resources, tools, and data, fostering collaboration and innovation across Europe.

    o **Adra-e**: This project supports the AI, Data, and Robotics Association (Adra) in coordinating and enhancing the European ecosystem in these fields. It focuses on promoting trustworthy AI, data, and robotics technologies by fostering collaboration among industry, academia, and policymakers, and aligning European efforts with global standards and practices.

    o A webinar will be organised, involving speakers from both projects. Provisional date: **November 14th, 2024.**

7. CONCLUSION

This report plays an important role in shaping the future of the European AI, Robotics, and Data ecosystems through strategic collaboration and stakeholder engagement. The comprehensive approach outlined in this report highlights the project's commitment to fostering meaningful partnerships, enhancing European initiatives, and integrating project results into broader European platforms.

By engaging with key actors and platforms, collaborating with relevant consortia, and actively participating in outreach and communication efforts, EARASHI is laying a solid foundation for sustainable innovation. The types of collaborations detailed—ranging from data sharing to standardisation recommendations—demonstrate a multifaceted strategy aimed at maximizing the impact and utility of the project outcomes.

The successful examples of collaboration further illustrate the project's effectiveness in creating synergies across the European landscape. Activities such as webinars, technical fairs, and joint booths not only showcase project results, but also facilitate knowledge exchange and foster new opportunities for growth and development.

This report represents an initial step in a continuous journey. It sets the stage for further developments, with a final report anticipated by M30. In light of this, it is essential to outline strategies for extending the current actions, ensuring that the foundations laid in this initial phase are built upon. Future reports will delve deeper into these strategies, expanding on the insights gained and the progress made, thereby reinforcing EARASHI's position at the forefront of innovation in the European AI, Robotics, and Data ecosystems.