

EU Danube Region Strategy
PA 8 LIGHTHOUSE

DIGITALIZATION, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, METAVERSE & VIRTUAL WORLDS



Croatian Artificial Intelligence Association (CroAI)



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DANUBE REGION
strategy
Prosperity through Diversity

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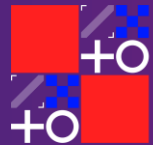
Basics

Acronym: CroAI

Name: Croatian Artificial Intelligence Association

Country: Croatia

Scoring: 49/50



CroAi

Contact Information:



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<https://www.croai.org/>

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Key Project Data:



Since 2019



Funded by various project sources:

As a whole, the association manages a budget of several hundred thousand euros annually across multiple programmes and funding sources (EDIH, Digital Europe, Erasmus +)



About the project



The **Croatian AI Association (CroAI)** is a non-profit organization that brings together companies, startups, experts, and institutions **in the field of artificial intelligence** in Croatia. The association promotes the development and application of AI technologies across various industries

Mission

- Support the responsible development and application of AI
- Promote Croatia as a competitive AI ecosystem
- Contribute to shaping AI policy at the national and European level

→ **The project's objective is to ensure Croatia is not only a user but also a shaper of AI technologies through local talent, research, and entrepreneurship.**

Green Up Hub



INNOVATION

CroAI is not a single project, but a national AI ecosystem enabler. Its innovation lies in how they connect policy, education, and business to ensure AI benefits everyone.



SUSTAINABILITY

CroAI uses a sustainable model with multi-stakeholder governance and funding diversification.



SCALABILITY

CroAI's scalability lies in the creation of toolkits and blueprints that can be adapted across the Danube Region and beyond – especially where public-private dialogue and responsible innovation are emerging.



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Activities

CroAI plays a central role in designing and implementing activities that **bridge the gap between AI innovation and societal needs**. The association fosters collaboration, education, and innovation in AI through **events, advocacy, and community-building activities**.

Key activities include:

Delivering AI literacy programs

CroAi maintains AI programs like e.g. an interactive AI Landscape Map featuring over 500 Croatian organizations involved in AI development, application, or education.

Project funding and coordination

CroAi is co-leading and funding several AI-project. One example is the AI4Health.Cro project that aims to drive digital transformation in healthcare through AI innovation.

Events & Workshops

CroAI hosts networking events and workshops to foster regional AI collaboration and knowledge sharing

Policy & Advocacy

CroAi contributes to responsible AI adoption aligned with EU AI Act principles by coordinating AI policy dialogue in Croatia.

Education & Capacity Building

CroAI provides training and resources for professionals and students in the field of AI.

Research & Development Support

CroAi promotes AI research in collaboration with academia and industry.

Impact

CroAI has significantly elevated the **visibility and coordination of AI efforts in Croatia**. They created a shared space for startups, researchers, corporates, and government actors to collaborate.

CroAI's activities have contributed to:

Stronger alignment with EU AI policy and regulation

Improved digital skills and awareness among educators and SMEs

Helping Croatia to be seen as a rising innovation actor in the Danube and broader CEE region

More inclusive participation in digital transformation, especially for youth and underserved communities

