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Towards Understanding AI Adoption Among Higher Education Researchers

Insights from the AI Researchers

Erasmus+ Project

Abstract

AI Researchers is an Erasmus+ project that aims to embed AI literacy in European higher education by equipping early career researchers and academic supervisors with structured AI training. The project fosters responsible AI adoption in research, aligning with EU ethical guidelines and research frameworks. By integrating AI literacy into research supervision and doctoral training, AI Researcher ensures sustainable, long-term impact.

We present the project's foundational phase related to two diagnostic studies on the perceived benefits, barriers, concerns, and mechanisms related to generative AI adoption among higher education researchers and academic supervisors. Based on these findings, we developed recommendations for designing AI literacy training and supporting the adoption of generative AI while maintaining human accountability. Together, these studies provide the empirical foundation for the subsequent development of the project's educational programmes, toolkits, and mentoring activities.