**From:** Kave Noori - EDF Artificial Intelligence Policy Officer <kave.noori@edf-feph.org>
**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 11:00 AM
**To:** Dossin Muriel <Muriel.Dossin@minsoc.fed.be>
**Subject:** Changes in AI regulations in the EU and US: what impact on disability rights?

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|  | You don't often get email from kave.noori@edf-feph.org. [Learn why this is important](https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification)  |  |

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| [View this email in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/edf-feph/ai-and-disability-series-8?e=ad11906ef8) - [Join the Artificial Intelligence & AI mailing list](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=cac2dd33c1&e=ad11906ef8) |

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| **EDF Update on AI and Disability | Issue 8 | June 2025** |

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| Dear readers,Welcome to the June AI and Disability Update!This month, we bring you fresh news. Learn about our new infographics on Artificial Intelligence (AI), EDF and Amnesty’s latest easy-to-read reports on AI, and the significant changes in AI regulations in the EU and USA that can shape the future of disability rights in AI. In writing this newsletter, we made an effort to give context to the news we report on in order to make things easier to understand.We hope you enjoy reading it.Kave Noori, AI Policy Officer, European Disability Forum |

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* [2 infographics to understand AI and build a more inclusive future](#mctoc2)
* [New Easy-to-Read Guide on AI Act Released](#mctoc3)
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| **Consultation response to the Commission “Apply AI Strategy”** |

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| EDF submitted its response to a [European Commission public consultation on the “Apply AI Strategy](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=927b8990fd&e=ad11906ef8)”. The Strategy aims to support the use of Artificial Intelligence in industry and public services to drive innovation, investment, and trustworthy adoption across Europe. The consultation ran from April 9 to June 4, 2025.In our response, EDF recommended that the Commission prioritise inclusion and accessibility. These values must be a cornerstone of an increasingly digital society. However, we fear that they could be considered less important, as increasing competitiveness is currently at the top of the digital agenda.We proposed that the EU allocate public funding for societal purposes to promote the development of AI that benefits people with disabilities, even if it is not profitable.We also advised that the planned AI factories and digital innovation hubs should train small and medium-sized enterprises in inclusive design methodology. They should train representatives of end-users (such as persons with disabilities) who are compensated for their work time and available to companies to advise them on ideas or products. |

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| **Read our public response to the consultation - first submission**  |

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| **Read our public response to the consultation - second submission**  |

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| **2 infographics to understand AI and build a more inclusive future** |

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| Artificial Intelligence is becoming increasingly present in our daily lives. But do you really know what AI is and how it affects persons with disabilities?[With support from the European Artificial Intelligence & Society Fund](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=337f1e47a3&e=ad11906ef8), the Forum has created two infographics to help you understand AI and take action for a more inclusive future.With our infographic “What is AI”, learn: * What AI is
* How it can impact persons with disabilities both positively and negatively
* The role you play in shaping AI
* Actions you can take to support safer, fairer, and more inclusive AI

The infographic “101 Million Reasons to Build Better AI” is designed as a tool you can share with policymakers and developers. It explains:* Why inclusive AI matters for 101 million persons with disabilities in Europe
* What actions governments and AI developers must take to build a future where AI is used to promote social inclusion and equality
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| **Explore what AI is and discover how you can help shape it (infographic)**  |

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| **See why inclusive AI matters for 101 million people — share the infographic to build better AI**  |

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| **New Easy-to-Read Guide on AI Act Released** Back in October 2024, the Forum published a [comprehensive guide to help organisations of persons with disabilities navigate, implement and monitor the introduction of the EU’s Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act in their countries.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=5213ab84f0&e=ad11906ef8) Now, an easy-to-read version of this guide has been developed to ensure accessibility for a wider audience.This simplified version was created at the request of a representative from Inclusion Europe, who emphasised the need to include all people with disabilities in the discussion on AI. The creation of the easy-to-read version is an example of how the EDF, as a member-led organisation, seeks to respond to the needs of its members and constituents. The easy-to-read version of the guide provides a simplified explanation of the AI Act and uses examples to explain what artificial intelligence is and the risks it poses to people with disabilities. It also outlines the different risk levels of AI systems under the EU AI Act and explains how people with disabilities can ensure that AI respects their rights and supports their inclusion in society. |

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| **Download and share the easy-to-read guide**  |

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| **AI and new technologies in services for persons with disabilities**Explore how AI and new technologies are transforming services for persons with disabilities. The European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR), an organisation of service providers and an EDF member, reports on their annual conference in Malaga from last year.Key learnings include insights into employment trends, innovative AI applications for inclusion and ethical considerations in AI development. Learn how organisations such as Fundación ONCE, Google and Samsung Spain are breaking down barriers with AI and explore the importance of inclusive design and ethical AI practises.Want to learn more? |

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| **Read the European Platform for Rehabilitation blog post**  |

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| **Access the conference report for comprehensive insights and recommendations**  |

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| **Human rights organisations worry about the future of EU digital policy**On 19 May, 121 civil society organisations, academics and other experts submitted an open letter to the European Commission to express their concerns over the potential reopening of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).The letter urges the Commission to reconsider its proposal to "simplify" the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The current proposal states that companies with fewer than 750 employees in many cases would no longer be required to document how they process personal data.The organisations stress that the GDPR, as a human rights-based legislation, is essential for safeguarding online human rights within the EU regulatory framework. They assert that this simplification should not be seen in isolation and occurs in a broader context where the EU seeks to deregulate. Historically, “simplifications” of laws of this nature often extend beyond mere "technical adjustments." They express concern that opening up the GDPR for revision would invite to subsequent changes that might further weaken the legislation.The organisations appeal to the European Commission to resist pressure from foreign companies and political actors from outside the EU aiming to weaken EU laws. They highlight that these actors, who have raised objections to the GDPR, have also attempted, and continue to attempt, to undermine other EU laws, such as the AI Act and the Digital Services Act. |

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| **Read the full letter on EDRi website**  |

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| **Amnesty International easy-to-read report on Denmark’s use of AI in welfare systems**Amnesty International has published an easy-to-read version of its [November 2024 report on Denmark’s use of artificial intelligence in welfare systems.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=e11a732afb&e=ad11906ef8) The new version, available in English, Danish and Arabic, simplifies the complex findings and makes the report accessible to a wider audience.The original report sheds light on Denmark’s automated welfare system, which uses up to 60 algorithmic models to detect benefit fraud. This system has raised concerns about mass surveillance, psychological stress and discrimination against marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities, migrants and those on low incomes. Of particular concern is intrusive surveillance, such as the assessment of personal assistants for people with disabilities. Amnesty argues that these practises are similar to a social scoring systemThis easy-to-read version ensures that more people can understand the risks of using AI in social systems and for control and surveillance. Whether you are curious about the impact of AI in government or advocating for ethical oversight, this resource offers clear insights into the pressing issue of AI’s role in public welfare policy.  |

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| **Read the easy-to-read version to understand this critical issue**  |

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| **Denmark: Coded Injustice: Surveillance and Discrimination in Denmark’s automated welfare state (full report)**  |

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| **Commission allegedly allowed tech companies to weaken AI Act rules**At the end of April, [Euractiv reported](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=02ad80c2a0&e=ad11906ef8) that two organisations focusing on transparency in lobbying, Corporate Europe Observatory and Lobby Control, accused the European Commission of treating technology companies more favourably than other interest groups such as civil society and small and medium enterprises. [The EU General Purpose AI Code of Practice](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=5140a4c29e&e=ad11906ef8) has reportedly been influenced by lobbying efforts from large tech companies. The transparency organisations claimed that the consultation process was structured in a way that favoured these corporations, allowing them to advocate for changes that watered down the Code’s guidelines.It has been alleged that technology companies were granted private meetings with the chairs of the consultation working group, while other participants were primarily restricted to submitting written comments. The Commission denies that any participant received structural advantages. However, the article states that the Commission held four workshops with companies providing AI and only one workshop for each of the other three categories of stakeholders.The aim of the code of practice is to provide guidelines for the moderation and regulation of general purpose AI, such as ChatGPT and other language models. According to Euractiv, major technology companies have opposed the inclusion of discrimination risks in the taxonomy of the Code of Practice.   |

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| **Read the article on Euractiv**  |

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| **European Commission might pause the AI Act and “simplify” it** Brussels journalist Luca Bertuzzi, known for his detailed reporting during the AI Act negotiations, revealed in late May that the European Commission is considering postponing the enforcement date of the EU AI Act. Although the Commission has not yet made a final decision, it is possible they will propose delaying the Act's implementation as well as suggesting that certain provisions be weakened or "simplified".This consideration occurs while big tech companies are pushing back against the EU’s AI code of practice, technical standards are taking a long time to finish, and the US government is pressuring the EU to make its tech laws easier for American companies.The AI Act bans took effect on February 2, 2025, but its enforcement will start in August 2026. The thinking is that if this timeline is postponed, it would give EU lawmakers time to revise the AI act and introduce “simplifications” to the law. |

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| **Follow the discussion on LinkedIn**  |

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| **Find Luca Bertuzzi’s article on MLex**  |

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| **US Army uses AI to remove references to diversity and accessibility** AI can be used as a tool for inclusion, but also for the opposite. In March, [the news magazine Wired reported that the US Army is using a so-called large language model for internal use.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=c3dc8c52f0&e=ad11906ef8)The language model is used to identify references to diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility (DEIA) to be removed from policies, programmes, publications and initiatives in accordance with a recent executive order from President Donald Trump.The article states that the language model is used to look for targeted keywords such as “dignity” and “respect”. And that the AI is being used as an alternative to manually searching for specific words in a PDF reader.The US Army has developed its own AI called CamoGPT. The article states that the army is inventing new technologies like a tech startup and is looking at what can be used for what in the future, but that it is currently just testing and experimenting around.CamoGPT is described as “model-agnostic”. At the moment it is connected to an open model of Meta called Llama 3.3 70B LLM. This is an AI that anyone can download and use. As the CamoGPT is model-independent, it is possible to revert to another language model if a better one should come onto the market. |

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| **The US House of Representatives proposes a 10-year ban on state-level regulation of AI** The US House of Representatives has adopted a proposal to prohibit U.S. states from introducing regulations on artificial intelligence (AI) for a 10-year period. [The Associated Press (AP) reports that this initiative is part of a broader effort by the US President to eliminate policies and business practices aimed at limiting harms and bias in AI.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=ce1440ca9a&e=ad11906ef8)[In our last newsletter](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=16173ad3a0&e=ad11906ef8), we reported that President Trump had instructed federal agencies to cease efforts to identify and remove bias from the AI systems they use. The proposed 10-year ban would further prevent states from enacting legislation to address issues such as biased algorithms and fair decision-making.[The Guardian reports that several AI systems in the US have been challenged at state level over allegations of unfair and discriminatory practises.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=66f24d1c2c&e=ad11906ef8) In addition, some states, such as New York, have introduced legislation requiring AI used in hiring processes to be tested for bias. If the proposal is eventually adopted, it would prevent all state laws from being enforced. The article interviews a representative of a non-profit organisation who describes the proposal as a reckless and far-reaching attempt to shield companies from legal accountability.According to the reports, it is uncertain whether the bill will pass the Senate. The proposal has faced significant opposition and criticism. [The Electronic Frontier Foundation has described it as a bad idea](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=d7e8b4658d&e=ad11906ef8), state lawmakers from both the [Republican and Democratic parties have published an open letter expressing their concerns.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=cf1dcb652d&e=ad11906ef8) Moreover, the [Center for Democracy and Technology](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=668a7f0010&e=ad11906ef8) says it makes AI lawless and unaccountable in the US.On a different note, the US. Secretary of Commerce [announced](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=e2a5483605&e=ad11906ef8) on 3 June that the U.S. AI Safety Institute will be transformed into the Pro-Innovation, Pro-Science U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation. One of the Centre's missions will be to represent the U.S. internationally to prevent burdensome and unnecessary regulation of American technology companies by foreign governments. The Centre will also work with a U.S.standards body to ensure U.S. dominance in international AI standards.  |

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| **Clean energy, AI and disability rights are related**The European Disability Forum has received questions about AI and its energy consumption. To facilitate informed discussions, we are providing this reading material for those wishing to learn more about this topic.[The MIT Technology Review has examined relevant studies and reports on AI’s footghlighting research from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=c05f97bab7&e=ad11906ef8). Their  research suggests that by 2028, AI alone could consume the equivalent of up to 22% of the electricity used by all households in the United States. The expected increase in AI usage necessitates a separate consideration of the energy consumption of AI compared to general data processing.We know that people with disabilities are disproportionately affected by climate change due to systemic societal inequalities. Often their needs are overlooked when planning disaster response and climate adaptation strategies, such as ensuring accessible evacuation procedures and accommodating assistive devices such as wheelchairs and personal assistance needs.An example from South Memphis, Tennessee, USA, highlights the need to discuss clean energy and emissions in the context of disabilities. [Politico reports on increasing respiratory problems and higher asthma prevalence among residents after a chatbot company built a data centre in a neighbourhood.](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=1eaf14aefd&e=ad11906ef8) This data centre is powered by turbines that emit nitrogen oxides (a group of toxic gases), suggesting that the data centre requires more energy than the local power grid can supply. Local residents say that they are paying with their health because people want to use AI. Asthma is considered a disability, and this example underscores the importance of considering the health impacts of AI-related energy consumption. |

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| **AI Lund lunch seminar: Generative AI impact on higher education** **18 June 2025 | Online** This [lunch lecture organised by LUND University](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=94bba57eb8&e=ad11906ef8) will focus on lessons learned from extensive experimentation with generative AI in education at the Department of Informatics. Björn Svensson, director of studies at the department, will present an approach to generative AI that has proven to work. You will hear about pitfalls, how to avoid them, and about ongoing research efforts at the department to investigate the role and effect of generative AI in learning. |

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| **Participation free of charge - register now**  |

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| **AI for advocacy workshop by the European Campaign Playbook****4 July 2025, 9:00 - 16:00 (CEST) | Brussels, Belgium**European Campaign Playbook, the community of communications professionals, organise a workshop on AI for advocacy and campaigns. This one-day bootcamp organised for designed for campaigners, consultants, and public affairs pros will introduce tools, practical tactics, and peer collaboration for an ethical and effective use of AI in advocacy work. |

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| **Register for the free demo session on June 5 for more info**  |

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| **Registration and programme for the workshop on the event page**  |

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| **AI for Good Global Summit: join to shape the Future of Inclusive AI****8-11 July 2025 | Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland** [The AI for Good Global Summit 2025](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=697abf9356&e=ad11906ef8), hosted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in collaboration with 47 UN agencies and co-convened by the Government of Switzerland, is the United Nations' leading platform on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).This year’s summit will showcase cutting-edge AI solutions and foster global discussions on AI governance, safety, and inclusivity. But will these innovations truly be accessible to all?For disability rights activists, this is a key moment to make an impact. The summit will feature ground-breaking technologies designed to empower persons with disabilities, but it will also tackle the risks of AI-driven exclusion. By attending, you can engage with innovators and policymakers and push for inclusive design and legislative measures to prevent discrimination. |

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| **Register now and help shape the future of inclusive AI**  |

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| **Editorial Note**Author: Kave NooriEditor: Ness JamesCopyright (C) 2025 European Disability Forum. All rights reserved.You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to EDF's AI & Disability Series, or because the latest issue of the AI & Disability Series has been forwarded to you. **Our mailing address is:**European Disability ForumAvenue des Arts 7-8Brussels B-1210 Belgium**Read this e-mail in your language:**click "[View this email in your browser](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=6f98818547&e=ad11906ef8)". When the page opens, select "Translate" in the top right corner. **Did you find this e-mail in your spam?**Add us to the [safe senders list in Outlook](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=6b3d025018&e=ad11906ef8), or [add us to your contacts on Gmail](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=789bb245e6&e=ad11906ef8).**Want to change how you receive these emails?**You can [update your preferences](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/profile?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=ef760c7cb1&e=ad11906ef8&c=fe12cf5d05) or [unsubscribe](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/unsubscribe?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=ef760c7cb1&t=b&e=ad11906ef8&c=fe12cf5d05)The “AI & Disability Series” is a series of articles written in the framework of the [EDF “Disability-Inclusive AI” project](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=4c731290c6&e=ad11906ef8) which is funded by the [European Artificial Intelligence & Society Fund](https://edf-feph.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=865a5bbea1086c57a41cc876d&id=44ea47c847&e=ad11906ef8). The aim of the series is to highlight how AI is impacting the lives of persons with disabilities.  |

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