

AI strategy of the Netherlands

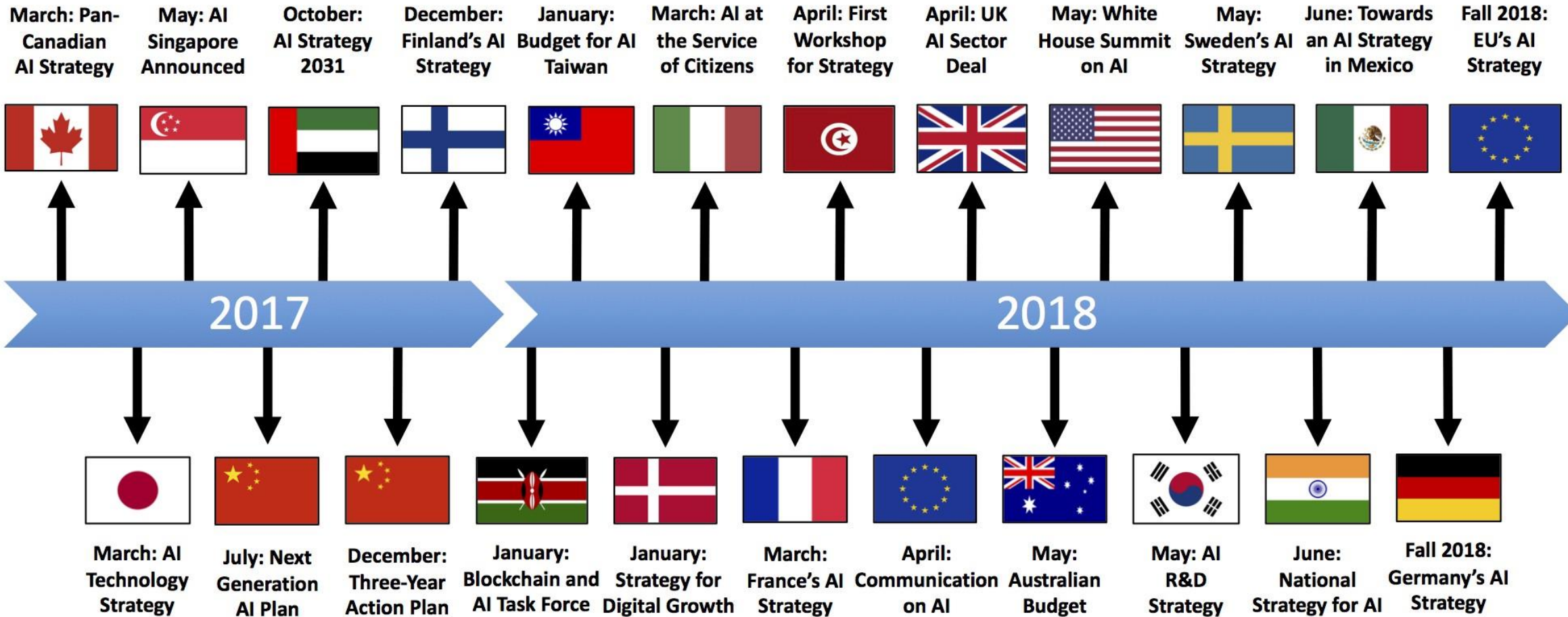
Comparative case studies of AI strategies in Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands

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Artificial Intelligence Strategies



NL AI Strategy – key moments

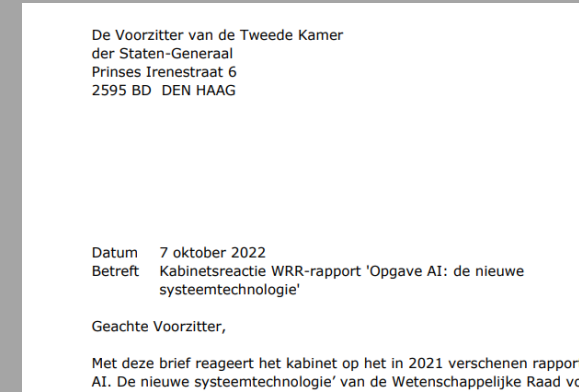
Report *AI voor Nederland* published



AiNed program funding granted



Cabinet response to WRR report



SAPAI published, NL AIC kickoff



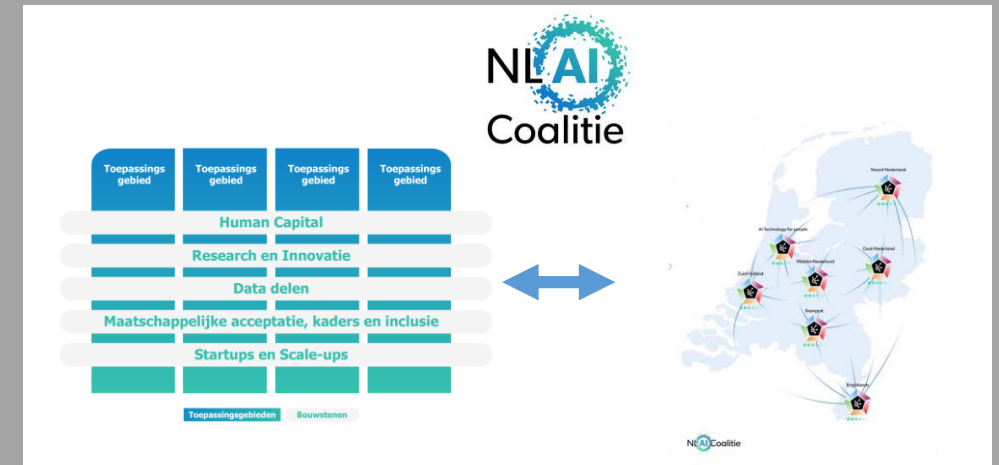
WRR Report 'Mission AI'



House debates on AI & WRR report

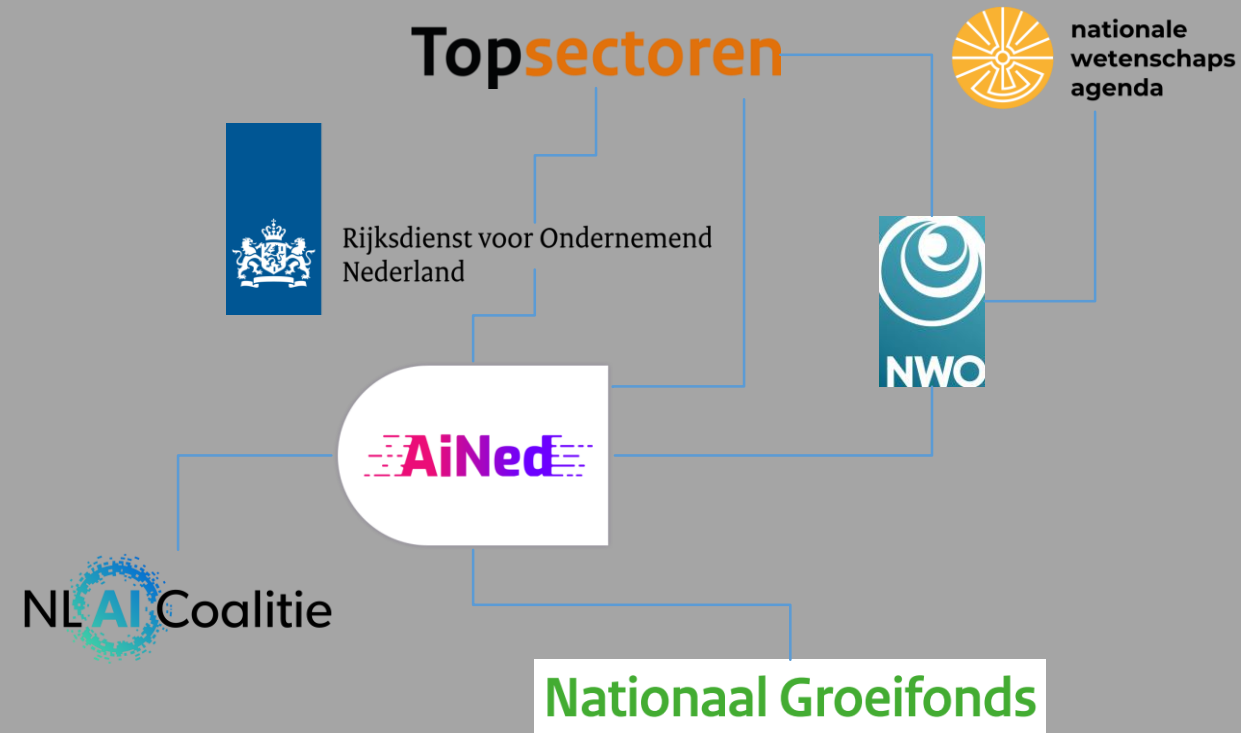
Implementation (1)

- Many different initiatives (e.g. Hybrid Intelligence, ICAI, Appl.AI, Deep Tech Fund)
- **Public-private partnership:** Netherlands AI Coalition
 - Quadruple helix
 - Sectoral & hub structure
 - ~€24 Mln funding to kickstart the initiative
 - Quickly grew from 65 organisations to over 250
- Strategic **investment programme:** AiNed
 - “To strengthen the NL economic position focusing on application, knowledge and innovation, people and skills, (EU) collaboration”
 - €205 Mln public investment



Implementation (2)

- Two routes
 - Coordinate **scientific research** into AI (via Dutch Research Council, NWO)
 - **Stimulate innovation** with AI (via Netherlands Enterprise Agency, RVO)
- Commonalities
 - Mission-oriented
 - Human-centric and trustworthy AI



Interview results (1)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries well-aligned • Support & seed capital • Consistency • SAPAI is considered a policy milestone 	<p>Ministries did not lead the way, but supported emerging initiatives, which inspired the AI strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some find government too 'hands-off', underestimating the 'systemicness' of AI • Not all consider SAPAI as a strong, impactful vision on AI, but as a 'snapshot' of existing efforts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker action • Time span to make impact • Mission-oriented policy 	<p>AI strategy and programs make use of existing (policy) instruments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not necessarily fit-for-purpose • Need for better monitoring and impact measurement • More effort to make adaptive
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More inclusive process • The quadruple helix principle works 	<p>Many stakeholders were brought together quickly, in a 'poldering' fashion (NL AIC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging integrating different 'rhythms' of academia, business, government • Barriers for NGOs and start-ups • NL AIC governance is refocusing

Interview results (2)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer timescale for impact • Representative 	<p>AI-initiatives were combined in a single strategic investment program proposal (Ained)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poldering, consensus-building • Longer process • Take the money and run
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (ELSA) Labs are a successful collaboration form 	<p>While the strategy aims for AI application, the program shifted to fundamental research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus shifted from tech transfer to fundamental research • Funding instruments • Need for strategic reflections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human-centric, trustworthy AI • Goals are well-aligned, but with different tactics 	<p>Early on in alignment with European strategic ambitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member states can be both a partner as well as competitor. • EU is influential, but complex

Conclusion

NL AI strategy recap

Many existing initiatives (e.g. ICAI), AiNed inspired an NL AI strategy

2019: SAPAI, aiming “to contribute to welfare and wellbeing”

Building AI ecosystem (NL AIC) with 23.5 M€ funding

2021: National AI investment program AiNed with 205 M€ funding

Scientific research guided by 2 agendas: AIREA-NL and the NWA

Funding via ‘scientific route’ or ‘business route’

Findings from interviews

Existing policy and funding instruments may not be fit-for-purpose

Role of government was supporting initiatives

Inclusion over agility: many stakeholders brought together

Ained integrated many different initiatives

Implementation shifted to fundamental research

Aligned with Europe