CLAIRE — Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe

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Scientists across Europe offer assistance with using Artificial Intelligence to combat COVID-19

In an open letter, CLAIRE (the Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe, claire-ai.org), offers governmental agencies and public institutions support in managing the unfolding COVID-19 crisis in Europe.

-- *Other countries are using artificial intelligence to help manage the crisis, including China, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea*, says Emanuela Girardi, an advisor to the Italian government and one of the leaders of CLAIRE's COVID-19 taskforce. -- *We can – and should – learn from that.*

-- *The AI community has much to offer, and many AI researchers and practitioners stand ready to help public institutions that are in the front line of coping with the crisis,* adds Prof. Gianluca Bontempi from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium), who co-leads CLAIRE's COVID-19 taskforce with Ms Girardi. -- *Through CLAIRE, we can access and mobilise world-leading expertise across the full spectrum of AI, and we hope that this will make a difference.*

CLAIRE has built the world's largest network of AI researchers.

– *Europe has the largest number of researchers in artificial intelligence in the world,* says Dr. Morten Irgens from Oslo Metropolitan University, member of the executive board of CLAIRE. -- *They are an important resource. Let's look at how we best can help in this difficult and extraordinary situation.*

-- *Many scientists are motivated and ready to volunteer their capabilities, and there is plenty of evidence that expertise in artificial intelligence can make a difference in managing the COVID-19 crisis,* says Prof. Holger Hoos from Leiden University (The Netherlands) and chair of the executive board of CLAIRE. -- *However, these scientists need a clear message from European and national authorities, as well as effective coordination. CLAIRE, whose work is focussed on "AI for good" and "AI for all", stands ready to provide this expertise and coordination, on a volunteer basis.*

The open letter has been sent today to the presidents of the European Commission, Council and Parliament, as well as to the governments of all EU member states, and to those of Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The full text can be found at https://claire-ai.org/openletter-covid-19.

About CLAIRE

CLAIRE (Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europe, claire-ai.org) is an organisation created by the European AI community that seeks to strengthen European excellence in AI research and innovation, with a strong focus on human-centred AI. CLAIRE aims to establish a world-wide brand recognition for "AI made in Europe" (at the level of CERN), and to position Europe in control of its own future.

CLAIRE was launched in June 2018 and now has the support of more than 3,300 people, most of them scientists, technologists, and researchers in Artificial Intelligence. The supporters represent the vast majority of Europe's AI community, spanning academia and industry, research and innovation. Among the supporters are more than 140 fellows from various key scientific associations. CLAIRE has opened administrative offices in The Hague, Saarbrücken, Prague and Rome, with additional offices to be opened this year in Brussels, Oslo, Paris and Zürich. Furthermore, nine advisory groups with 48 members from 18 countries have been established, covering all areas of AI, along with the topics of ethical, legal and social implications of AI.

CLAIRE's membership network consists of over 359 research groups and research institutions, covering jointly more than 21 000 employees in 35 countries. In addition, CLAIRE is in the process of setting up an industry network, in order to foster close links between non-profit research and impactful industrial applications.

The CLAIRE vision for excellence in European AI has received official letters of support from the governments of nine European countries, from 28 scientific associations across all of Europe, from the European Association for Artificial Intelligence (EurAI, which is the key European association for AI researchers), from the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI, the key international association for AI), and from the European Space Agency (ESA).

CLAIRE is also actively liaising, on an ongoing basis, with other important organisations, including ELLIS, the HumanE AI consortium, the Big Data Value Association, euRobotics and AI4EU, and cooperates closely with ESA.

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