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#### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND AUTOMATED DECISION-MAKING IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

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# Al in Public Administration: A case for internal capacity building

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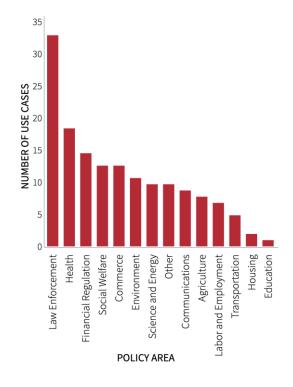
- AI in Public Administration: context
- Considerations in building government Al systems
- Importance of internal AI capacity in government
- Challenges and opportunities of Generative AI for government

## Al across all functional areas of Government

- **Enforcement:** targeting of agency enforcement action (US SEC and IRS)
- Regulatory research, analysis, and monitoring: analytics to shape agency policy (FDA, Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- Adjudication: supporting adjudication of benefits or rights (US Patent Office)
- Public services and engagement: facilitate communication with the public (Postal Service)
- Internal management: HR, procurement and maintenance (Health and Human Services)

#### Evidence

- Hard to find consistent evidence
- Two recent surveys:
  - The 2020 report to the Administrative Conference of the United States
  - The 2022 report by the European Commission Joint Research Centre



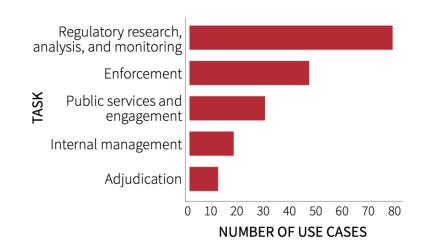
Government by Algorithm: Artificial Intelligence in Federal Administrative Agencies



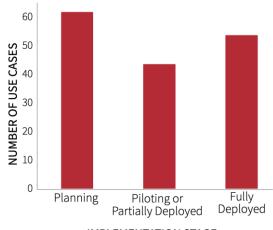




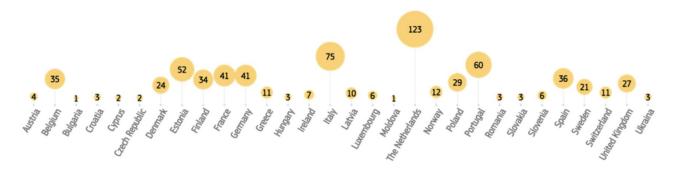
FIGURE 2. AI USE CASES BY GOVERNANCE TASK



#### FIGURE 3. AI USE CASES BY IMPLEMENTATION STAGE



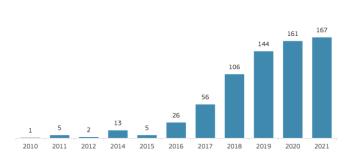
IMPLEMENTATION STAGE

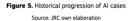


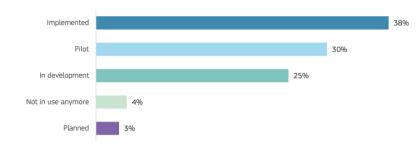
**Figure 4.** Mapping the use of AI in the public sector in Europe

Source: JRC own elaboration









**Figure 9.** Development Level of AI cases Source: JRC own elaboration

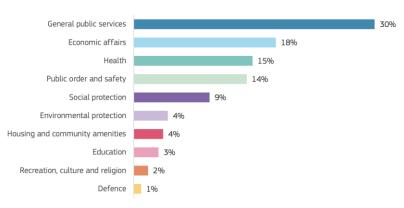


Figure 8. Governmental functions (COFOG Level I)

Source: JRC own elaboration

### How and why?

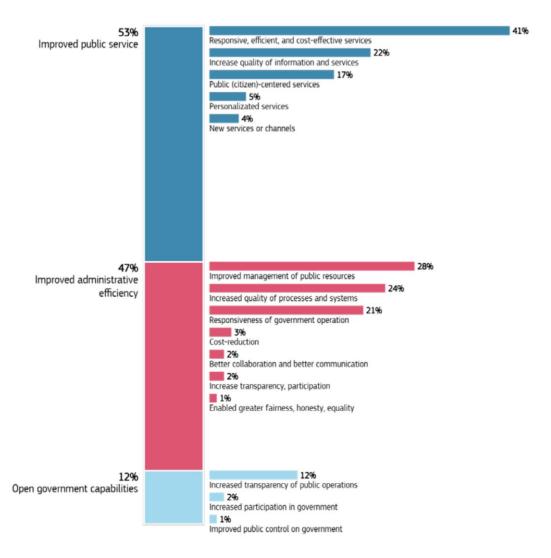
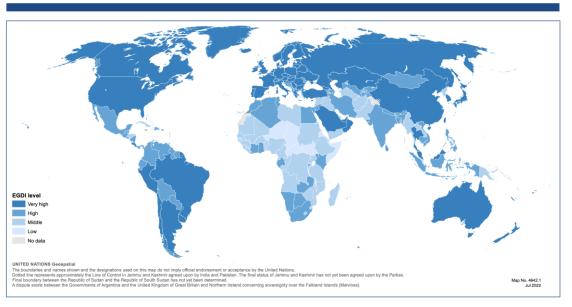


Figure 14. Public Value of E-Government AI Services

### Global insights

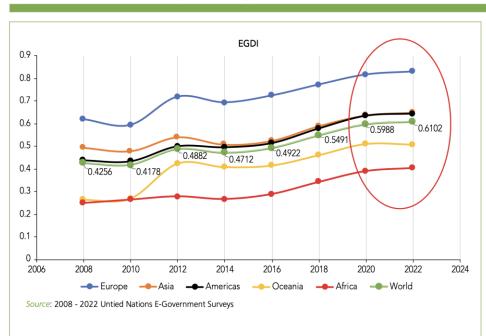
- The 2022 UN E-Government Survey
- Most governments provide digital services, with increasing use of emerging technologies like AI.
- But also digital divides between regions and income levels
- Urgent demand to develop digital skills and capabilities to support digital government transformation.

Figure 1.1 Geographical distribution of the four EGDI groups, 2022



Source: 2022 United Nations E-Government Survey.

Figure 5.1 EGDI Global and Regional Average Value



# Building Al systems in government

## Things to consider

- data quality
- fairness
- accountability
- privacy
- explainability and transparency
- costs

#### Biggest Q: Is Al the right solution?

- there's data containing the information you need, even if disguised or buried
- it's ethical and safe to use the data
- you have the right sort of data for the Al model to learn from
- the task is large scale and repetitive enough that a human would struggle to carry it out
- it would provide information a team could use to achieve outcomes in the real world

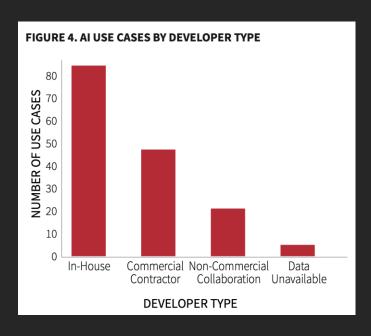


#### Build or buy?

- Procurement strategy as with any other tech
- Are the needs you're trying to meet unique to your organisation or you could fulfil users' needs with generic components?
- What is the maturity of commercially available products that meet those needs?
- How your product needs to integrate with your existing infrastructure?
- Are there sufficient skills to build in-house? Can operations run and maintain the AI solution?
- Whether you buy or build the solution still needs to be integrated into the decision-making pipeline or end-to-end service for users.

# Importance of internal capacity

## Why build internal capacity?



- Guaranteeing data privacy and security
- Ensuring compliance and accountability
- Incorporating domain, political, and organisational expertise
- Making informed procurement and collaboration decisions
- Assuring integrative and iterative development
- Focusing on long-term sustainability

### Traditional Al skills

- Al
  - machine learning
  - deep learning
  - computer vision and natural language processing
- Data science
  - big data
  - cloud computing
- Solution development
  - causal inference
  - decision theory
  - development and operations
  - ethics and law
  - human-centred design and agile
  - governance and policy-making

## Generative Al effect

## Capacity building in Generative Al context

- Governments and citizens are becoming empowered by GenAI (ChatGPT)
- Spectrum of skills, with some offloaded to GenAl
- Prompt engineering skills are becoming more important
- "Text to model" instruction also makes it more difficult to outsource building robust and sustainable solutions

#### Conclusion

- Al systems across all government functions
- Digital divides and skills gap
- "Buy or build" for AI systems in government
- Internal capacity is important
- GenAl shifts skills gap debate
- GenAl makes traditional "buy or build" choice more complicated

## The Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Government (CAIG)

Connecting social sciences and artificial intelligence

#### Prof Slava Jankin

