

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

DM 630/Univ. Politecnica delle Marche/Econova AI S.r.l. - Artificial Intelligence for Sustainability Assessment and Reporting for a Sustainable Future

Funded By	UNIVERSITA' POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE [P.iva/CF:00382520427] MINISTERO DELL'UNIVERSITA' E DELLA RICERCA [P.iva/CF:97429780584] ECONOVA-AI S.R.L. [P.iva/CF:02814630410]
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Context of the research activity	<p>The project, funded by Università Politecnica delle Marche and Econova-AI srl, aims at developing AI-based methods and tools to assess the sustainability profile of the company and the related reporting activity.</p> <p>Progetto finanziato dal PNRR a valere sul DM 630/2024 - CUP: E14D24002330004</p>
Objectives	<p>Following the introduction of the EU CSRD Directive, within 2028 most of the European supply chain, including subsidiaries of non-EU companies operating on the continent, will be required to report on sustainability matters. AI can play a crucial role in developing efficient and affordable tools that can help companies assess, analyze, and improve their impact on environment, society, and people, including the identification of potential financial losses caused by climate risk linked to either physical or transition risk (double materiality). Critically, open-source Large Language Models (LLMs) and Small Language Models (SLMs) are going to be instrumental in making sustainability reporting accessible to European SMEs.</p> <p>The project is aimed at developing AI-based tools designed to simplify, improve, and optimize corporate sustainability reporting with respect to at least three of the following key tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) data gathering, processing, and analysis using APIs and data lakes;b) engagement with stakeholders via personalized communication platforms;c) survey generation and processing;d) impact analysis and identification by applying, where appropriate, sector standards;

Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) impact prioritization using qualitative and quantitative blending techniques; f) mitigation planning and target setting; g) financial risk assessment related to climate risks; h) sustainability progress monitoring; i) sustainability process enhancement; j) sustainability reporting generation in line with the ESRS Standards and, where applicable, according, or with reference, to GRI Standards; k) compliance with publishing requirements; l) results dissemination to interested parties. <p>Depending on the chosen focus areas, the project will involve the usage of platforms related to Big Data, Data Integration, Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Dashboarding, Cloud Services and IoT Integration.</p> <p>The project's outcomes have to be achieved envisaging expert human supervision, in line with the EU-AI Act requirements. Additionally, the results must respect GDPR provisions related to data protection and privacy.</p> <p>This scholarship is offered in partnership with ECONOVA-AI, which will offer training and guidance for the duration of the course and will host the candidate for the in-company training period.</p>
Skills and competencies for the development of the activity	<p>Sustainability reporting requires an eclectic, multi-disciplinary approach. Consequently, the project is highly flexible and can be steered, under the guidance of the supervisor, towards the preferences of the selected candidate. Therefore, it is possible to specialize in: a) data analysis; b) ML; c) NLP; d) report generation and compliance. Prerequisites should be in line with the selected key tasks. However, candidates should understand that computing skills are necessary to complete the project.</p>