

Call for Proposals

Commons AI 2026



Presentation of Commons AI 2026

Commons AI is an annual conference dedicated to a community based approach for AI. It will take place as part of the [Future of Software Technologies](#) event at the CNIT in La Défense (December 1–3, 2026).

The goal of this initiative is to bring together people engaged in the study and/or support of digital commons who are exploring and working toward the creation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) through a digital commons approach.

By “digital commons,” we mean a form of collective action that brings together a community of diverse actors, implementing governance rules to develop and sustain immaterial resources and maintain the community.

We adopt a broad understanding of openness and AI, not limiting it to Generative AI on the one hand. And recognising, on the other hand open technologies and open practices at different layers of the AI stack, including open source software, open weights, open data, open hardware, and open science (open digital artifacts).

A commons-based approach to Artificial Intelligence involves examining three key dimensions:

- **The resources involved in the AI stack**, without limiting them to models and data. The challenge is to consider the entire spectrum of AI technologies and applications, including the AI stack in its entirety (model, architecture, interface, data, standards), as well as the hardware component.

- **The ecosystem that develops, manages, maintains, and regulates these resources at various scales**, along with the values it embodies. Moving beyond the ideal of free circulation of resources sufficient to ensure their sustainability, this involves considering community dynamics and the social values embodied (integrity, transparency, environmental and social responsibilities, inclusivity, etc.), as well as the conditions for a sustainable commitment by stakeholders to make the efforts needed to maintain and develop them.
- **The governance rules applying to these resources and the community** with the aim of ensuring the long-term viability and sustainability of the whole, whether guided by the development of legal standards—such as new licenses or legal structures—or by established practices.

Presentation of the Call for Proposals

Expected Format of Presentations

Following the first [edition in 2025](#), which brought together about fifteen speakers, this second edition aims—as part of a co-creation approach—to offer either workshops with 20-min talks that provide context and frame the issues and incorporate participatory reflection time with the audience, or 10-min sessions showcasing inspiring initiatives. The duration of each workshop will be adjusted according to the length of the event slots.

We are launching a call for proposals with several suggested themes listed below for guidance (and not as an exhaustive list).

Each proposal must be submitted by **September 15, 2026**, via [this form](#). We will then select and group the proposals to form the participatory workshops.

The required information is:

- The title of the presentation;
- The proposed format chosen from:
 - A Keynote / intervention (20') providing context and framing the issue, followed by a participatory session;
 - A presentation of inspiring initiative (10')
- An abstract (1,500 characters) including details on the participatory format for the keynote;
- The name(s) and affiliation(s) of the speakers (maximum of 2 people)
- The language of the presentation (FR/EN)

Proposed themes

Our goal is to foster a shared, co-constructed, and in-depth discussion that advances participants' understanding. Here we provide examples of topics—which are not exhaustive—to inspire reflection and proposals. We do not promise to cover everything; we will prioritize coherence in our collective work rather than jumping from one topic to another.

Collateral effects of AI on open models (open source, data, hardware, open-source AI, etc.)

AI has disrupted the dynamics of openness through mechanisms of massive value capture (source code in free software, data from the open web). Furthermore, it has never been easier to fork an open project by having a machine reproduce the open source code. Typical definitions of openness have thus been called into question, prompting open-source stakeholders to take a stand (Open Source Initiative, Mozilla, etc.). What does it mean to create an open-source AI model today? What freedoms do AI users have? How can we continue to foster collaborative efforts within more traditional open-source projects? The aim is to examine the role of openness in promoting responsible practices in software development and reuse, particularly with regard to models and agents. At what level? In which part(s) of the stack? In what way? To ensure the model's sustainability? In conjunction with what other mechanisms? To create what kind of value, and for whom?

Multi-level Public and Industrial AI Policies and Governance

The principles of the commons call for the implementation of governance rules to ensure the long-term maintenance of one or more resources. Within this commons-centered approach, what roles and obligations do states or supranational bodies have in promoting AI systems centered on commons that are independent of American or Chinese models? What impacts might current regulations (AI Act, Export Administration Regulations) have on the dynamics of openness in AI? How can open source be recognized as a lever for control and strategic autonomy? From an economic perspective, what economic and market levers could disrupt market concentration among Big Tech companies? Beyond these large-scale mechanisms, this also plays out at a more local level among various actors seeking to organize collectively. For example, what role do industrial policies and the actions of mission-driven companies play in supporting digital commons? How can approaches to resource pooling be implemented between private and public actors? How do these different macro and micro scales converge to create an innovation dynamic based on the commons?

Trust in AI

The creation of commons relies on relationships of trust among community members, but also on the quality and relevance of the resources they manage. The challenge is to be able to evaluate AI models independently and openly. Several benchmarks exist today, but they are not transparent or open. Independent and open evaluation is crucial, even if it may lead to various biases (in the training of subsequent models). What evaluation mechanisms should be implemented? By whom?

AI and Participatory Dynamics

Artificial Intelligence is becoming increasingly embedded in all the digital applications and services we use. By collecting and analyzing our data, it amplifies well-known patterns of attention-grabbing tactics, the spread of deepfakes, and so on. Awareness of these issues and the implementation of alternative models are essential for civic engagement and the functioning of democracy. But what role is there for discussions and the implementation of AI in the public interest? What changes in use are possible due to the

attractiveness of persuasive design or free trial offers? What civic contributions are possible, and what control mechanisms can be established at the community and regional levels? We must also examine the effects of AI on open communities (the impact of agents on open source, the mass replication of open-source developments by AI, and the overload of AI-generated commits—known as “AI Slop”) and the mechanisms (legal, organizational, economic) these communities are implementing to adapt.

Creation of Data Commons

AI models rely on massive data training, but also on the alignment between specific data and specific needs. Foundational models have been built on the collection of vast amounts of data without respecting the associated copyright principles or personal data protection laws. By considering data as a commons, the question arises of mechanisms for sharing data within a community (without necessarily making it open). How do we implement data-sharing systems (data lakes, industrial platforms)? What kind of governance should organizations establish around data? What security mechanisms are needed to prevent the capture of value? Can we expect models trained on “cleaner” datasets to perform just as well? Would it be possible to implement reciprocity mechanisms between public data production and its use for AI?

The Material Dimension of AI and Commons Issues

When it comes to AI, the material dimension is often overlooked. This dimension begins with the physical infrastructure underpinning AI—data centers, servers, and chips—which even draw on natural resources. Should a digital commons movement advocate for frugality? How can we strike a balance between model size and their impact? What is the right balance between efficiency and environmental impact? What role should the pooling of existing infrastructure play, and what are the cybersecurity risks involved? How does AI affect regions (through the establishment of data centers), and what level of physical sovereignty should be established?

For any question or additional information, please contact cgruson-daniel@inno3.fr

Ressources

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Gruson Daniel Célya and Benjamin Jean. Billets Commons AI 2025 - Vers une IA d'intérêt général pour les communautés numériques <https://inno3.fr/blog/ia-interet-general-communautes/> - Commons AI un besoin essentiel d'accéder à des données de qualité <https://inno3.fr/blog/commons-ai-data-qualite/> Gouvernance des IA : quelles solutions pour contrer les asymétries de pouvoir entre producteurs et utilisateurs d'IA ?

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White, M., Haddad, I., Osborne, C., Liu, X.-Y. Y., Abdelmonsef, A., Varghese, S., & Hors, A. L. 'The Model Openness Framework : Promoting Completeness and Openness for Reproducibility, Transparency, and Usability in Artificial Intelligence » (arXiv:2403.13784). ArXiv. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2403.13784>

Organizing committee

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- Nicolas Jullien (IMT Atlantique/Marsouin)
- Elsa Le Duigou (DINUM)
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Coordination

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