Council of Europe recommendation on artificial intelligence literacy

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On 2 September 2026, the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers adopted a Recommendation on AI literacy. It describes AI literacy as the ability to engage with artificial intelligence critically, ethically, responsibly, safely and effectively. This means understanding the human, technological and practical dimensions of AI. The Recommendation presents AI literacy as essential to ensuring that AI is used in ways consistent with human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

A key part of AI literacy is understanding how AI systems function. According to the Recommendation, AI systems reflect the values, design choices and assumptions of their developers and of the social, economic and political contexts in which they are developed and deployed. Besides, it should be understood that AI is not limited to generative tools: it includes prediction, decision making and recommendation systems, many of which are embedded in everyday digital environments. Finally, one should understand how AI systems are built on and shaped by data, and developed using data whose origins, quality and limitations shape their output in fundamental ways. This core understanding of AI services is essential and should guide member States when developing AI literacy policies, having for objective to help people assess AI content more thoughtfully.

The Recommendation calls on member States to develop national strategies and governance frameworks for coherent, sustainable and context-sensitive approaches to AI literacy. It also encourages member States to include AI literacy in curricula and learning frameworks, and to support public awareness and societal engagement through AI literacy initiatives in schools, libraries, museums and other civic spaces.

Recommendation CM/Rec(2026)12 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on artificial intelligence literacy

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