The Government of Spain in collaboration with the European Commission presents a pilot for EU's first AI Regulatory Sandbox

- The objective of the collaboration is to connect competent authorities with companies developing AI in order to define together best practices to implement the future European Commission's AI Regulation

- The pilot has been presented in an event in Brussels and will be launched in October 2022 with an open call for companies to test the requirements and the new procedures proposed in the Artificial Intelligence Act.

- As a result from this practical experience, a guide of good practices and implementation guidelines will be published and presented during the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2023.

- These guidelines will be made available to all Member States and the European Commission.

- The overall budget of the pilot, funded under Spain's Recovery Transformation and Resilience Plan, is of approximately 4.3 million euros.

Brussels, June 27, 2022. The Government of Spain and the European Commission present today a pilot for EU's first regulatory sandbox on AI. With this occasion, a launch event with the participation of the main Spanish and European authorities as well as renowned field experts was held in Brussels.

In his intervention, the European Commissioner for the Internal Market, has "congratulated Spain for being the first country who has decided to invest part of its Recovery and Resilience Fund to launch this ambitious first pilot for an AI sandbox in Europe".

Nota de prensa

CORREO ELECTRÓNICO
prensa@economia.gob.es

Página 1

Pº de la Castellana, 162

28071 - MADRID
TEL: 91 603 79 18 / 20 / 21

On her side, the vicepresident first of the Spanish government, Nadia Calviño, has highlighted the "it is a great opportunity that the new European Artificial Intelligence regulation is tested with the Spanish enterprises, with SMEs and startups, so that we can see with them the impact of any requirements and we develop together the protocols and good practices that will later expand to all countries in the EU".

The spanish State Secretary for Digitalization and AI, Carme Artigas, has presented the details of the pilot in a dialogue with Roberto Viola, General Director of DGCNET, of the European Comission. During the conversation, she has explained that "we cannot longer wait. With this pilot, we need to create the environment where we can put together developers and competent authorities so that they find the best way to regulate".

In preparation for the implementation of the AI Act

The sandbox aims to bring competent authorities close to companies that develop AI to define together best practices that will guide the implementation of the future European Commission's AI Regulation (Artificial Intelligence Act) and ensure it can be implemented in two years.

While the entire ecosystem is preparing for its implementation, this sandbox initiative is expected to generate easy-to-follow, future-proof best practice guidelines and other supporting materials facilitating its application to companies, in particular SMEs and startups.

This sandbox pilot initiated by the Spanish government will look at operationalising the requirements of the future AI regulation as well as other features such as conformity assessments or post-market activities.

Thanks to this pilot experience, obligations and how to implement them will be documented, for AI system providers (participants of the sandbox), as well as the methods to control and follow up that are useful for supervising national authorities in charge of implementing the supervising mechanisms that the regulation stablishes.

CORREO ELECTRÓNICO
prensa@economia.gob.es

Página 2

Pº de la Castellana, 162

28071 - MADRID
TEL: 91 603 79 18 / 20 / 21

In order to strengthen the cooperation of all possible actors at the European level, this exercise will remain open to other Member States that would be able to follow or join the pilot in what could potentially become a pan-European AI regulatory sandbox. Cooperation at EU level with other member States will be pursued within the framework of the Expert Group on AI and Digitalisation of Businesses set up by the Commission.

The financing of this sandbox will be drawn from the Recovery and Resilience Funds assigned to the Spanish Government, through the Spanish Recovery, Transformation and Resilience Plan, and in particular through the Spanish National AI Strategy (Component 16 of the Plan). The overall budget for the pilot will be approximately 4.3M EUR for approximately three years from the beginning of the work this year.

A guide available to all Member States and the European Commission

The tests will begin from October 2022 and the results will be published during the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2023. Experience collected in the sandbox will be presented in the form of good practices and implementation guidelines and will be made available to all Member States and the European Commission, which may use them in preparation of the implementation of the future AI Regulation.

Participating organisations and especially SMEs will benefit from increase legal certainty and the transfer of know-how on compliance. This exercise will also facilitate the development of innovative and trustworthy AI systems that can access the Spanish and the European market. The process will also initiate consultations that will eventually lead to the creation of a Spanish Supervisory Authority for Artificial Intelligence.

To guarantee the proper functioning of the sandbox and its impact on the Spanish AI market, the Government of Spain will be in continuous with several organisations that have extensive technical and legal experience. The main organisations in this respect will be the European Commission, including its Joint Research Centre, the European Organizations for Standardization (CEN/CENELEC and ETSI), the IA Advisory Council, the National Institute for Cybersecurity, the National DPA, Digital Innovation Hubs specialised on AI and

CORREO ELECTRÓNICO
prensa@economia.gob.es

Página 3

Pº de la Castellana, 162

28071 - MADRID
TEL: 91 603 79 18 / 20 / 21

the Testing and Experimentation Facilities on AI funded under the Digital Europe Programme.

CORREO ELECTRÓNICO
prensa@economia.gob.es

Página 4

Pº de la Castellana, 162

28071 - MADRID
TEL: 91 603 79 18 / 20 / 21