



Uruguay
Presidencia



Public Sector Strategic Committee for Artificial Intelligence and Data

Minutes No. 2/2024

Version: 1

Date: 06/13/2024

Time: 14:00

Assistants

Representatives of	% stake of the meeting	Name
AGESIC	100%	Virginia Pardo, Gabriel Hernandez, Maximiliano Maneiro, Ninoschka Dante, Angie Lecot, Nancy Ibarra
MEC	100%	Alberto Majó
MEF	0%	Did not appoint representative
MIEM	100%	Pascual Gattas
MTSS	100%	Marcelo Belen
INE	100%	Maria Victoria Susena
INDHDP	100%	Mark Israel
ANII	100%	Flavio Caiafa
URCDP	100%	Gonzalo Sosa

Agenda

The call was made in order to deal with the following Agenda

1. Minutes and repository of the Strategic Committee:
 - Agreement on approval and publication criteria
 - Review access to the common repository
2. Report to Parliament:
 - Manufacturing process
 - Brief presentation on the approach and proposals received
3. Towards the construction of a first draft of the AI Strategy
 - Exchange and position of representatives on the objectives
 - Exchange on different lines of actions to be integrated
4. Announcements by participants and next steps

Development of the meeting

The meeting was moderated by **Ninoschka Dante**.

At the beginning, the agreements of the first meeting of the Strategic Committee were reviewed, verifying their compliance.

Point 1. of the agenda of this meeting: minutes and repository of the Strategic Committee. The following agreements were reached:

- The minutes will be sent by email to the representatives of each organization on the Strategic Committee, who will have a period of 10 days to review them and make comments. After this period, the comments received will be incorporated and the minutes will be approved.
- A space will be created on the Agesic website where public versions of the approved minutes will be published.

- Regarding the documentation repository for the work of the Strategic Committee, a space is available in Agesic's Nextcloud.

Point 2. Report to Parliament

Gonzalo Sosa presents a summary of the activities being carried out to comply with the provisions of art. 74 of Law 20.212, regarding the preparation of a report to Parliament with recommendations on legal regulation of artificial intelligence and data strategies. Deadline: June 28, 2024.

The different thematic axes that emerged in the dialogue tables and review of international references were considered and with a first draft of background information prepared by the Personal Data Regulatory and Control Unit (URCDP), other public sector organizations were called upon to provide further input to Agesic's vision for the preparation of the report.

In addition, the consultation was subsequently opened to other actors from civil society, academia and the private sector through the participation platform.

He mentioned that all the contributions received will not necessarily be reflected in the report but will be integrated into the version to Parliament.

He added that the report's focus follows the provisions of the aforementioned article: ethical development of AI, protection of human rights, promotion of technological innovation.

Regarding the international background, **Gonzalo Sosa** mentions that the guidance is potentially regulatory of artificial intelligence. Some points mentioned:

- Greater decentralization in the United States. Executive Order with the role of the entities
- In Europe, the risk approach is more present, and 'red lines' are marked in this regard.

- There is a lot of regulation in terms of principles, with a range of possibilities considering local idiosyncrasies.

To conclude this point, he indicates that there will be issues whose subject matter will be raised in the report for analysis.

Then, in response to the query on regulatory sandboxes, provided for in art. 75 of Law 20.212, **Gonzalo Sosa** indicates that the project is advancing towards its signature, under review by the Legal Unit of the Presidency.

Point 3. Towards the construction of a first draft of the AI Strategy

Ninoschka Dante refers to the document systematizing the contributions that arose from the dialogue tables of the Artificial Intelligence Strategy review process that was shared in the Strategic Committee repository.

In this process, some 500 proposals emerged which were considered in the systematization.

He proposes working on the Committee's vision of objectives and lines of action to be integrated into the Artificial Intelligence Strategy, considering the conditions in Uruguay and also in terms of projection. He mentioned the structure of the document and the thematic axes considered in it.

He proposes holding a round of participation on these axes, emphasizing that the general vision must be that of the Strategy.

Pascual Gattas refers to three points:

- It clearly indicates that the issue of capacity development at the educational level, in universities, in the development of critical thinking, in the general public of this tool must be a main axis where there is much to do.
- Data management as a basis for applying analysis tools and obtaining results based on standardized data by areas, such as Health, and which allows research to be developed in each of them. He mentions that there is a lot of information to process and work on for the

decision-making in government and also seeing in the private sector what things to share and what not to. Sharing to achieve positive results, given that each company is reserved with its own.

- Infrastructure: indicates that it is important to develop infrastructure at the country level for both the government and for research with laboratories to promote *Startups*.

Maria Victoria Susena agrees with what was stated above and adds that in the matter of data sharing, interoperability should begin with public bodies, since it is more difficult to achieve in the private sector. Challenge: thinking about the governance of this process.

Virginia Pardo It also mentions the importance of the infrastructure issue, clearly establishing the objective to be achieved: improve it, rent it, build it, what to achieve? and how it then supports the actions to be implemented. Likewise, in terms of training, it is important to be clear about the purpose: education, job retraining, etc.

Alberto Majó He mentioned that the topic of capacity development should be linked to the topic of civic culture. He refers to the fact that it is the responsible use and critical thinking of citizens and not just the technical training to be imparted. Taking advantage of Uruguay's civic culture to train in these topics. He exemplified the case of the Super Computer Center in Barcelona that made Spain a leader.

Flavio Caiafa takes up the approach of the three points mentioned by **Pascual Gattas**, stating that the axes mentioned are those that arise in meetings with companies and with people who work in AI. He highlights the point of training that it should extend from school to university. He also points out that there is an issue of civility and that it should be explained that we have "digital drugs" at hand, which is critical and has no limits.

With reference to data, he mentions that data is constantly requested from the population. He adds that there is some light at the end of the tunnel, exemplifying the case of Salud.Uy, where there is a much better situation than expected, in which with little effort (in relative terms) it could be made available to

researchers anonymized information from people's medical records. Proposes to do a pilot to evaluate.

Regarding the Strategy, it indicates that the challenging objective is to keep data protection aligned with the European framework, but at the same time not limiting the development of technology. Balance: data management and protection.

Regarding infrastructure, he mentions that the cloud will be the provider, even though we do not own the cloud, we use it. At some point, having an infrastructure will be economically necessary. Concept of sovereign national infrastructure He adds that it may be interesting, before that happens, to have an R&D+i infrastructure with modern servers.

Alberto Majó He stresses that the national infrastructure strategy should have a research component, with the inclusion of a budget. It should be a country that has the capacity to use available knowledge and adapt knowledge. R&D+i would be a strategy for using the AI strategy.

Ninoschka Dante In relation to R&D&I, it is necessary to carry out work to generate mechanisms in this regard. In more general terms, to think about how to transform the problems into country objectives, then into specific objectives and how these issues are capitalised on in the Strategy.

Flavio Caiafa He proposes that R&D&I be a specific line in the strategy with an initial infrastructure. He mentions that there is opportunity in countries that have renewable electrical matrices, given that AI processing computing centers consume a lot of energy and there is interest in ensuring sustainable infrastructures. Industrial electrical consumption is the largest percentage of consumption at a national level. If 90% of electrical energy were renewable, it would be very good. It would be necessary to see if the benefit compensates for the other lines that exist in Uruguay.

Virginia Pardo indicates that we have to be guarantors of all the rights and principles to be protected. Promote the “things are done well here”, maintaining trust, security, capabilities, educated citizens, expert technicians, etc. Maintaining this policy is a great differential in the region. It emerged at the dialogue tables

as a country value, and there was also the question of where to direct the budget to continue working: a place to research, infrastructure for pilots, for example.

Ninoschka Dante He added that from the roundtable discussions with the private sector, creative industries and entrepreneurs, it emerged that one of the things to consider in the strategy is how a Uruguayan entrepreneur differentiates himself, what standards he meets, etc. with the idea of a “differential seal”. There are different sectors that can capitalize on the lines of action of the Strategy. He also mentioned what the different strategies have in common in the application of methodology:

- institutional framework
- enabling components
- Regulation – What are the ethical regulatory technical frameworks?
- Innovation, investment in AI
- international cooperation
- Which sectors are prioritized?
- Talent management, impact on employment

Mark Israel He indicated that for some years now, there has been an inflation of the Executive Branch (EP) and a control body should not be there. The solutions have been given in Decentralized Services (SSDD) or autonomously in the Legislative Branch (PL). He adds that Agesic should leave the presidency and have a status like the Regulatory Unit of Communications Services (URSEC), which is independent, a control body that is not influenced by any of the powers, and it seems important to him from the point of view of security and AI controls.

Regarding the concern raised by the data trust mentioned in the summary document, he mentions that it is an issue that deserves scrutiny, precisely the place where the data is marketed. There is legislation on trusts, but something more specific would have to be done for this case.

Another concern is the issue of data itself. For example, the Human Rights and Ombudsman's Office (INDHDP) requests data and has a very hard time obtaining it, for different reasons. If you don't have access to the data, you can't work. We talk about AI, but if you can't generate basic knowledge, you have to consider what to do with AI. Part of the strategy should be to change the way data is managed.

Regarding data trusts, he mentions that there are companies that sell or rent their databases to companies that generate AI. We have to see how this issue is handled.

Gonzalo Sosa It indicates that the data trust has not been evaluated as a tool. There is a law that has a set of solutions. It has not always been applied and not everyone understands the same thing about how to apply it. There are things that exist and we do not know about. It does not prevent the data from being communicated if the purposes are known and the law does not prohibit it. The law has specific mechanisms to regulate it.

Flavio Caiafa He adds that one thing is data that is captured by the State and shared among itself. Every time a citizen speaks to the State, they are asked for data. Another point is how to protect personal data when entering a site and accepting that data is shared.

Ninoschka Dante He mentions that there is another axis that emerged in the dialogue tables and it is the one referring to education and employment, as well as the need for enabling instruments in SMEs, entrepreneurs, etc. Its viability should be compared in order to include it in the Strategy as an objective, line of action.

Marcelo Belen He added that the National Employment Directorate (DINAE) has not taken any action in this regard, since the focus is on solving problems of access to employment in certain sectors in particular. He added that at the level of the National Institute of Employment and Professional Training (INEFOP), which is the body that leads the training, there is some initiative.

Virginia Pardo He mentions that the impact of AI in the region must be known, and that there is a diagnosis, for example, of which jobs are expected to disappear or change. Perhaps we should start by having a diagnosis of the situation we are in. We propose to address this issue with an expanded Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS).

Flavio Caiafa understands that AI is the continuation of digital transformation, so the focus of education must be from school to adults. In addition to organizing the data.

Maximiliano Maneiro indicates that we are in an era where without data, there is also AI and that businesses can be generated 'out of nothing' just by creating generative AI and displacing others.

Upcoming activities

- Finalize the report of the dialogue table with the Creative Industries sector to add to the analysis
- Agesic convenes meetings in working subgroups, to close aspects in different lines of the AI Strategy:
 - Training and employment axis with MTSS
 - Education axis with Academy
 - Infrastructure axis
- Share the summary of the contributions arising from the Data Strategy roundtables for analysis within the scope of the Strategic Committee

Next meeting: Call a meeting of the Strategic Committee once the sub-working group meetings have been held.

End time: 15:50 hrs.