Blue Ocean Labs

BOL-E-0001 · NEXT STEPS

Next steps for policy experts

Scan for the full editorial and sources

From the editorial Europe's AI Moment: Relevance Without Capability by Thomas Nimmo, November 9, 2026.

Cite it

Nimmo, T. (2026), "Europe's AI Moment: Relevance Without Capability", Blue Ocean Labs Editorials, No. BOL-E-0001, Blue Ocean Labs, Paris, https://blueoceanlabs.io/editorials/europe-ai-capability.

Download the citation: BibTeX · RIS.

Use the framework

The five-stage framework (announced, allocated, deployed, operational capabilities, impact) can be applied to any public investment program. Please cite BOL-E-0001 when you use it.

Check the evidence

Every figure in the editorial, with its source and, where available, its paragraph or page: download the figures table (CSV).

Know the limits

These are stated in the editorial itself:

- The OECD figures cover venture capital, not total AI investment.
- The EIC Fund's later results don't, by themselves, show that its early weaknesses are resolved.
- The OLAF case is not evidence that all Ukraine funding was mismanaged.

Questions for your peers

1. *"Is the five-stage framework the right test, and what stage or measure is missing?"*
2. *"What data would let us measure the 'deployed' and 'operational' stages independently?"*

↑ Questions for institutions

For the Commission, the European Innovation Council, the European Investment Fund and national agencies:

1. *"Will you publish deployment and delivery figures, not only commitments, for each AI program?"*
2. *"Will you open those data for independent analysis?"*

Challenge it

Critiques and responses are welcome through our right-of-reply process: info@blueoceanlabs.io.

Who else to ask

Venture capital data:
OECD.AI Policy Observatory (https://oecd.ai/).

Audit evidence:
European Court of Auditors, Special Report 08/2024 (https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2024-08) and Special Report 12/2025 (https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/publications/SR-2025-12).

EIC Fund figures:
European Innovation Council, Impact Report 2025 (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/impact-2025_en).

InvestEU and the European Tech Champions Initiative: European Investment Fund (https://www.eif.org/).

Contacts checked on November 9, 2026. Read the full editorial, with all sources: https://blueoceanlabs.io/editorials/europe-ai-capability