Solicitation for feedback #1

Realigning the Maltese 2019 National AI Vision and Strategy

30 October 2023

01

Where from?
The 2019 AI Strategy:
Achievements and
Lessons Learnt

2019 Strategic Pillars & Enablers

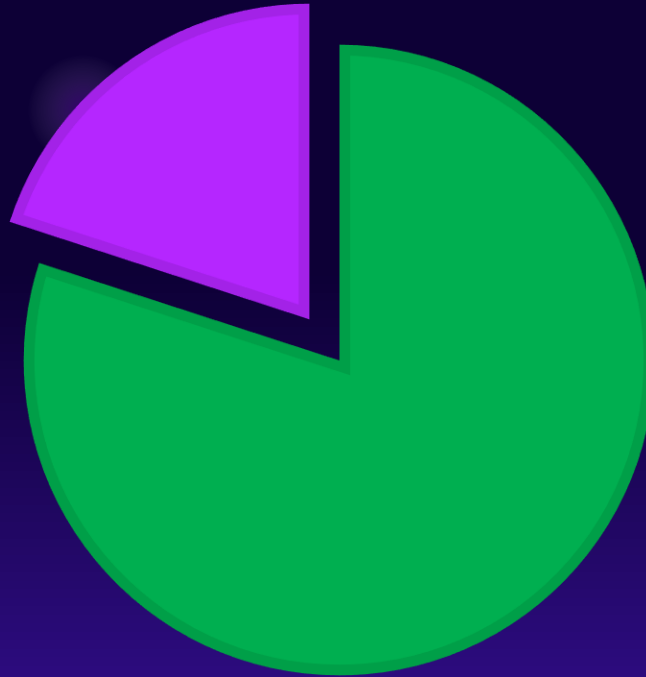| INVESTMENT, START-UPS & INNOVATION | PUBLIC SECTOR ADOPTION | PRIVATE SECTOR ADOPTION |

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

LEGAL & ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

INFRASTRUCTURE

MDIA Projects

European Digital Innovation Hub (EDIH)

MDIA-TAS (Technology Assurance Sandbox)

AI Applied Research Grant (MAARG)

MDIA Pathfinder Scholarship

TAKEOFF Seed Fund Award

International Rankings

International Ranking	Ranking in 2019	Ranking in 2022	Number of countries
The Global Innovation Index	27	21	132
Government AI Readiness Index	43	33	181
AI and Democratic Values Index	n/a	37	75
2023 International Innovation Scorecard	n/a	31	70
Digital Economy and Society Index	10	6	28

Lessons Learnt

Opportunity to realign the strategy in line with advancements

From government as a role model to private sector adoption

Education, awareness and trust

Accessibility of High Performance Computer

Alignment with AI Act

02

Why?
Understanding the Need to Realign the 2019 Strategy

Why the Need to Realign the 2019 Strategy?

- **Implementation in progress** with 80% of the 2019 Strategy have been partially or fully implemented.

- **Technological innovation** means new areas have become relevant, others obsolete.

- **Regulatory developments** mean that Malta will be regulating within international frameworks.

- **Societal changes** mean new challenges and opportunities.

03

How?
Strategy realignment process design

Towards a Realigned Strategy

- **Stakeholder and consultation** intensive process.

- Timeline:

Aug 23
Process initiated

Sep–Oct 23
Reach out to entities for suggestions

Nov 23
Public workshop presenting proposals

Dec 23
Expert Group Meeting on draft measures

Jan–Feb 24
Public consultation workshops

Mar 24
Expert Group Meeting on final strategy

Aug–Oct 23
Individual stakeholder meetings

Oct 23
Expert Group Meeting onprocess and initial feedback

Nov-Dec 23
Sectorial meetings to discuss proposals

Jan–Feb 24
Publication of consultation document

Jan–Mar 24
Feedback period for public consultation document

Mar–Apr 24
Publication of strategy

Stakeholder Involvement

- **Individual stakeholder meetings** with over 50 individuals representing over 30 entities, including:
  - Private sector users of AI
  - Private sector developers of AI
  - Private sector service providers
  - Public sector and Authorities
  - Academia

- **Reached out to over 30 entities** for input:
  - Representative bodies
  - Ministries and authorities
  - Political Parties and organisations

- In the process of extracting shared vision, objectives and measures from this stakeholder input.

A Strategy in Context

1. **Local policies and strategies** which have an impact on, or are impacted by the AI Strategy have been reviewed.

2. Other **national AI strategies**, to seek what other countries are striving for and how it impacts the Maltese vision.

3. The evolving **EU AI Act**, setting the legal and regulatory context in which the local strategy will be operating is being monitored.

A Strategy in Context

4. **Advancements in AI technology** opening new opportunities and setting new challenges are being taken into account.

5. As are **emerging trends in industry**, particularly in adoption of AI and change in workflows and processes.

A Strategy in Context

6. The strategy will take into account a number of **ethical AI frameworks** by international bodies identifying guiding principles of AI adoption.

7. It also takes into account emerging national and industry **technical guidelines and risk assessment frameworks for safe AI.**

04

Where to?
A Realigned Vision and Structure of the National AI Strategy

A Realigned Strategy

AI for Societal Well-Being
and Sustainability

Human-centricity

Sustainability

Living Heritage

Art and Culture

Monitoring social impact

Ethical considerations

A Realigned Strategy

AI for Societal Well-Being and Sustainability

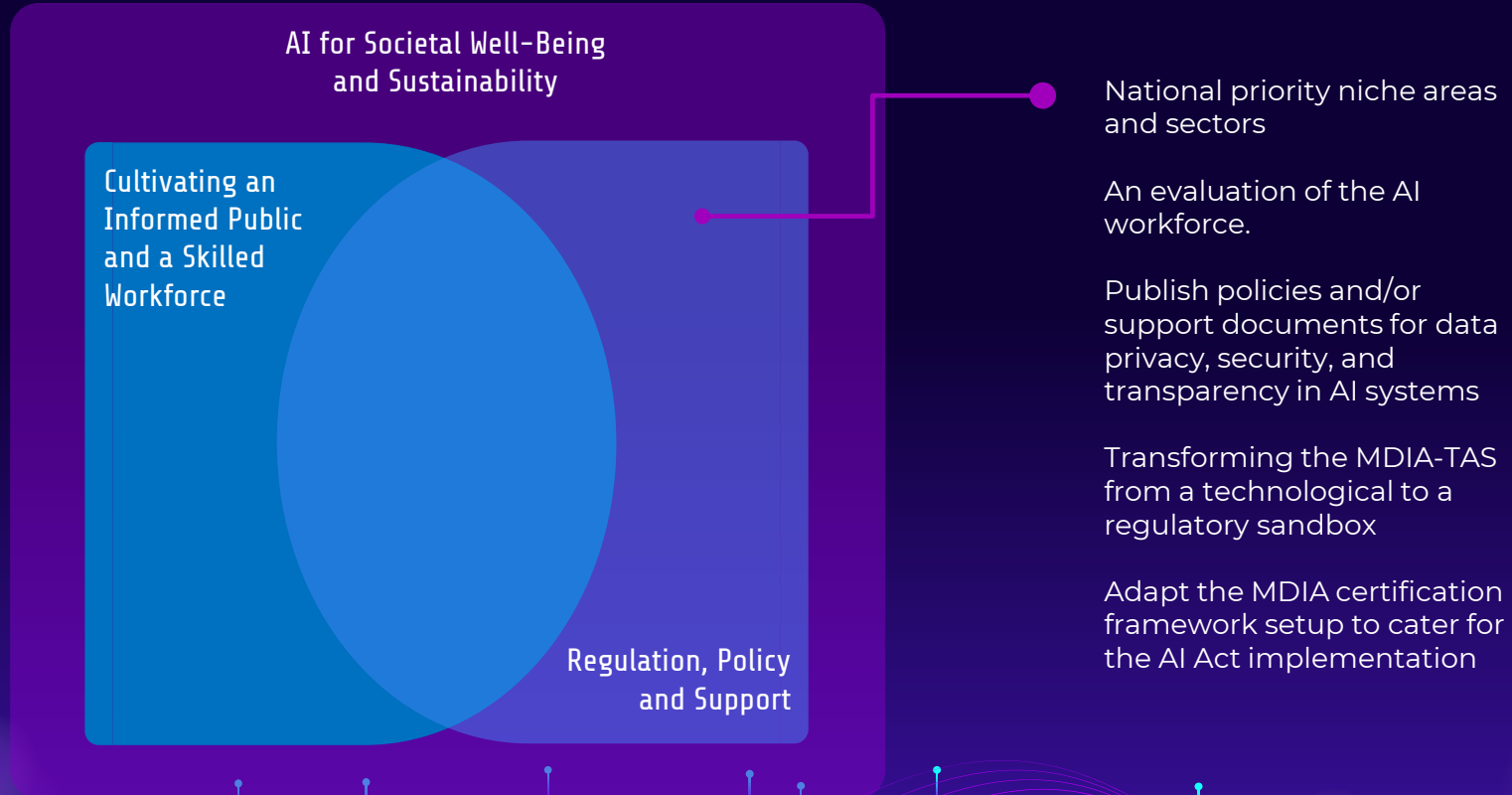**Cultivating an Informed Public and a Skilled Workforce**

- Informing the general public, targeting different segments of society

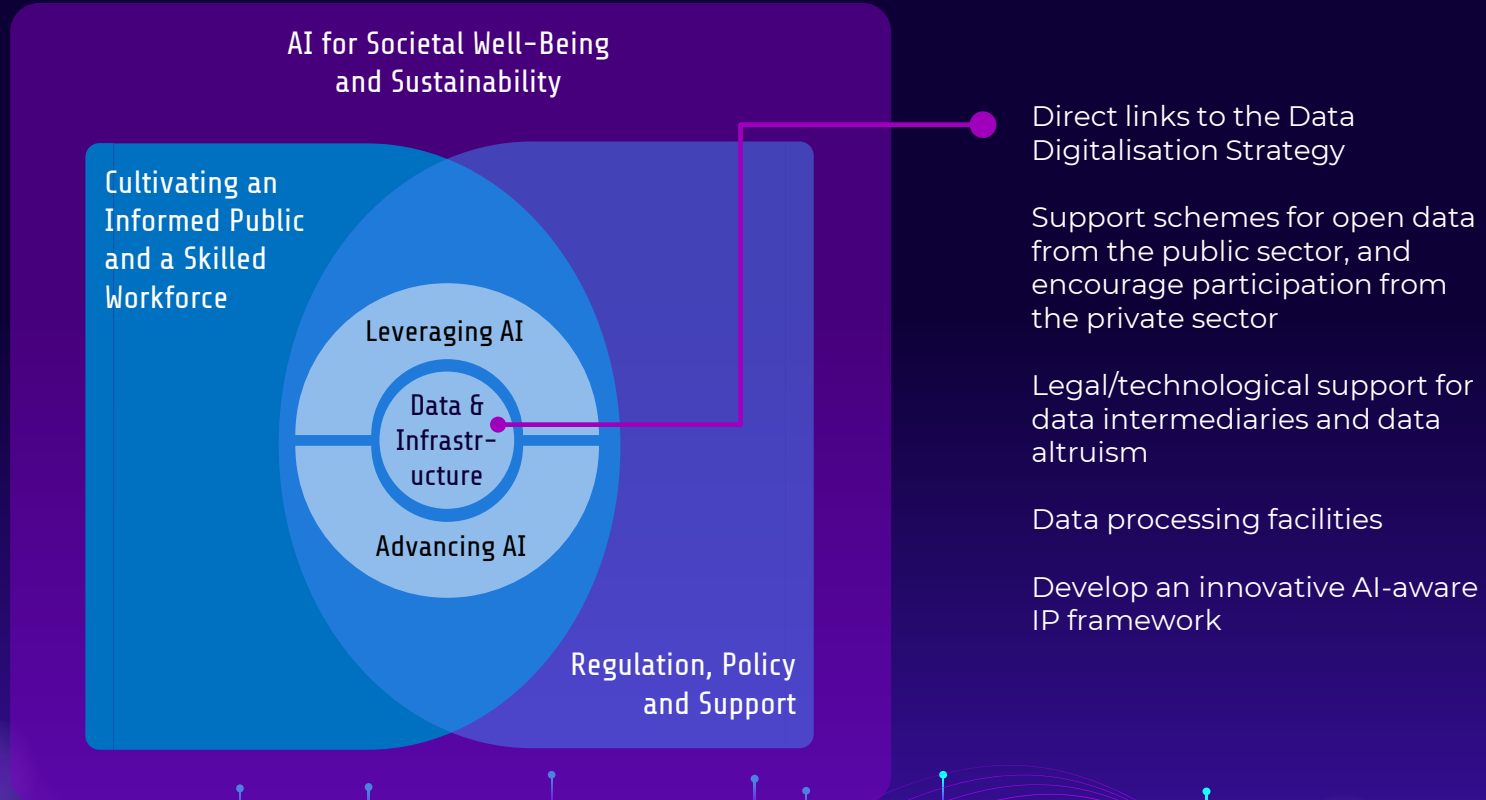- Education, from primary and secondary to tertiary and vocational

- Lifelong training and professional development

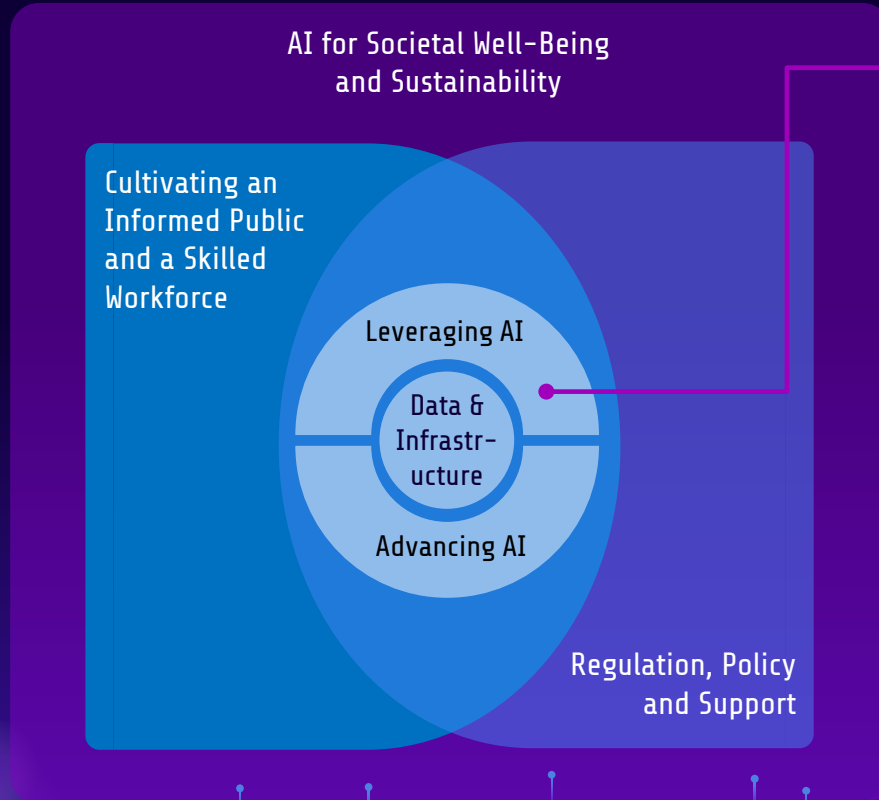- Widening the AI talent pool beyond that of IT

A Realigned Strategy

AI for Societal Well-Being and Sustainability

Cultivating an Informed Public and a Skilled Workforce

Regulation, Policy and Support

National priority niche areas and sectors

An evaluation of the AI workforce.

Publish policies and/or support documents for data privacy, security, and transparency in AI systems

Transforming the MDIA-TAS from a technological to a regulatory sandbox

Adapt the MDIA certification framework setup to cater for the AI Act implementation

A Realigned Strategy

AI for Societal Well-Being and Sustainability

Cultivating an Informed Public and a Skilled Workforce

Leveraging AI

Data & Infrastr-ucture

Advancing AI

Regulation, Policy and Support

Direct links to the Data Digitalisation Strategy

Support schemes for open data from the public sector, and encourage participation from the private sector

Legal/technological support for data intermediaries and data altruism

Data processing facilities

Develop an innovative AI-aware IP framework

A Realigned Strategy

AI for Societal Well-Being and Sustainability

Cultivating an Informed Public and a Skilled Workforce

Leveraging AI

Data & Infrastructure

Advancing AI

Regulation, Policy and Support

Industry R&D, particularly pairing demand (AI use) with supply (AI development)

Supporting academic research
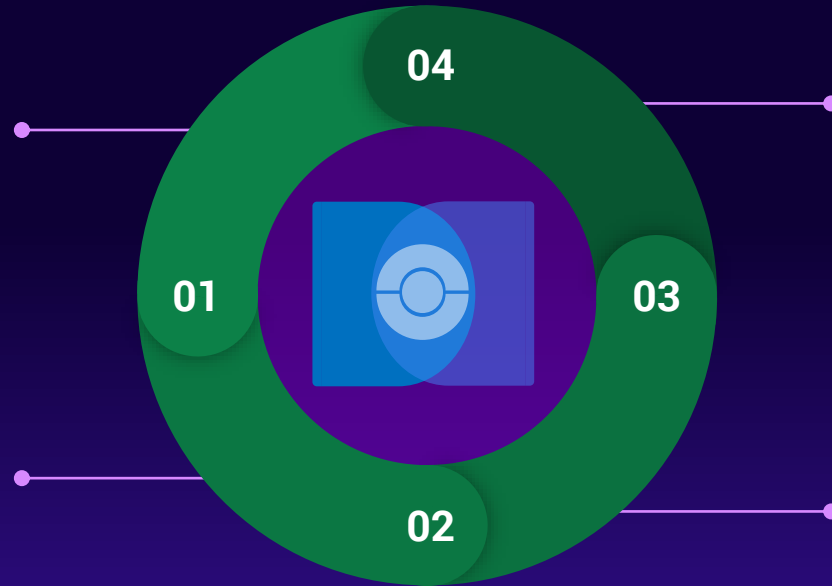
Foster an open-source community

A Realigned **Evergreen** Strategy

Implement
Set up a team to drive the implementation process, identifying ownership of measures, budget requirements, etc.

Monitor
Continuously monitor (i) the measures, (ii) identified strategy success criteria; and (iii) identified nationalwide AI adoption and quality metrics

Re-align
Identify and plan corrective measures for realigning the strategy and measures. In particular, set up running failure flags to ensure agile realignment and turn-around strategy relevance procedures.

Evaluate and assess
Evaluate the results and effectiveness of the measures and their impact on the AI ecosystem. Identify and publicise success measures, and seek less successful measures assessing whether they need to be supported differently or whether they are no longer relevant to the objectives.

04

01

03

02

05

Soliciting feedback
throughout the process
Phase #1

Initial Stakeholder Feedback

- The MDIA is soliciting feedback in order to ensure that the strategy takes into account the needs and vision of a wide swathe of stakeholders.

- In particular, input on the following aspects is being sought out at this stage:

  - Feedback on the proposed **strategy-definition process**

  - Soundness of **strategy structure** and the approach adopted

  - Feedback on the identification of **niche areas of focus** (see next slide)

AI Strategy Priority Areas

▪ The AI Strategy is planned to identify a number of priority areas of national interest, but it is also envisaged to set up an expert steering group to identify new opportunities and shifts in these niches during the lifetime of the strategy.

▪ Input on which focus areas should be included and how they can directly contribute to national priorities is being sought. It is planned to have:

   ➢ **Sectorial focus areas**, such as financial services, gaming, tourism, etc.; and

   ➢ **Technological focus areas**, such as natural language processing, high performance computing, etc.

Feedback Being Solicited

- Accompanying these slides is a brief document explaining the ideas in more detail, including the consultation questions.

- Feedback on the aspects listed in the previous slide, or any other aspects of the strategy will be received until 21 November 2023 on the contact details in the last slide.

- MDIA is also open to set up meetings with stakeholders to discuss the realignment of the AI strategy. Reach out to MDIA to set up such a meeting.

THANKS!

Send us your feedback on:

consultation@mdia.gov.mt