CHART
OF THE MONTH

HAEE
HELLENIC ASSOCIATION
for ENERGY ECONOMICS

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Vol.35

The AI Continent

EU Policies & Strategies

2020 Digital Strategy — **Climate-neutral data centres by 2030**

2023 Energy Efficiency Directive — **Mandatory reporting for >500 kW centres**

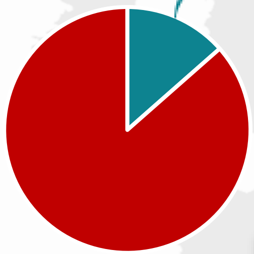
2024 EU Sustainability Rating Scheme — **KPIs reporting annually from Sept 2024**

2025 AI Continent Action Plan — **Triple EU data centre capacity in 5–7 years**

€200 billion
to boost AI development in Europe

€20 billion
to finance up to 5 AI gigafactories

€10 billion
in supercomputing infrastructures and AI Factories for 2021–2027



13.5% of EU companies **has adopted AI** in 2024

6,800 AI start-ups
as of 2025

At least **13 AI Factories**

Pharos, Greece

Up to **5 AI Giga Factories**
100-150 MW each
100,000 advanced processors

Source: AI Continent Action Plan, HAEE analysis

The European Union has pledged to mobilise €200 billion to accelerate AI development, with €20 billion earmarked for up to five Gigafactories and €10 billion for AI Factories and supercomputing infrastructures between 2021–2027. These investments will establish Europe as an emerging leader in advanced AI innovation and infrastructure.

AI Investment Drive

Across 17 EU Member States, 13 AI Factories have already been selected. By 2026, nine new AI-optimised supercomputers will be operational, alongside system upgrades. Collectively, these efforts will more than triple the EU's AI computing capacity, strengthening Europe's ability to train, test, and deploy advanced models.

Expanding AI Infrastructure

Rising Adoption

Despite Europe's research strength, AI adoption across businesses remains limited, with only 13.5% of EU companies using AI by 2024. This relatively low uptake highlights untapped potential, particularly among SMEs, and demonstrates the importance of scaling skills, infrastructure, and trust to accelerate Europe's transition into a true AI continent.

Growing AI Ecosystem

Europe is home to more than 6,800 AI startups as of 2025, many scaling towards unicorn status. This dynamic ecosystem reflects the EU's thriving innovation landscape, combining public investments with entrepreneurial drive. Startups and SMEs remain at the forefront of applying AI to industry-specific challenges and transformative new applications.

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