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AI4AGRI

AI4Agri

Developing green and digital skills towards AI use in agriculture

Project Number: 2023-1-PL01-KA220-VET-000160825

Erasmus+

KA220-VET - Cooperation partnerships in vocational education and training

WP2: Connecting AI with Agricultural sector: current status and needs assessment

A.2.3.: Reflection Roundtable Report

Developed by

OMNIA

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1. Introduction/ Roundtable details

Partner organisation: OMNIA

Date: 14/06/2024

Location: online

Number of participants: 10

Profile of the participants: Agronomist, AI expert, Agriculture entrepreneurs and workers

2. Conclusion on the main aspects of the Roundtable

AI use in agriculture, opportunities and risks

Artificial Intelligence in Cyprus agriculture, it's only known through Horizon European programs. The only AI-application identified by the survey is classifying and identifying weeds in agricultural fields. None of the participants was aware of any agriculture company or individual that is using AI technology. In contrast with AI, the use of smart technology is more popular. Many farms are using robotic milking, satellites and different kind of sensors for monitoring crops.

The participants expressed their concern for the AI use in agriculture because as they mentioned agriculture sector has to do with life, it's a multifactorial sector and sometimes it can be an unpredictable environment with many parameters to consider, you can have many changes from year to year.

Also, they said that with a combination of different kind of technologies, such as satellites and sensors you could take the correct decisions on your own so why using AI?

Another issue they mentioned is that although there is a lot of technology in agricultural machinery sometimes it's not applicable in Cyprus due to the small-scale fields and farming that we have, could it be the same with AI?

The participants stated that agriculture sector in Cyprus faces a lot of challenges that needs to be addressed before adopting AI. But they also stated that AI is a new tool, and like smart technology could help us improve Cyprus agriculture.

Using AI, the participants mentioned that there is always the risk of misinformation and inaccuracies so the AI applications for agriculture should be compile and open to add new data and information continuously.

For the cost, the participants said that depending on the technology and application it can be expensive but also it can be affordable with smaller applications that are using simpler solutions.

About the role of age and educational level in AI use in agriculture, the participants said that if there is a will to learn, then with a small training it's feasible for older generation to use AI applications but

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in general older generation are not positive in adopting AI technologies unlike the younger generation who are more open to AI.

Current training and policy needs

No current training programs in Cyprus were identified by the participants and no discussion made for policy needs.

Comments on the Survey analysis results

The survey results were pretty much expected from the participants with no further comments.

They agreed with the last comment of the survey that in Cyprus we have not developed the tools - data based for decision making and we should do that first and then adopt the use of AI.

Further demands expressed

Further suggestions were to continue having projects like AI4Agri so we can increase our knowledge of AI.

To have a collaboration between farmers, AI experts and all stakeholders so we can have good results that will take us far ahead.

Also mentioned is that the government should invest more in agriculture sector and support the adoption of new technologies and AI applications in order to improve Cyprus economy.

3. Summary

The following outcomes and results were obtained by the completion of Activity A.2.3 Reflection Roundtable:

- Cyprus is far behind in adopting AI technologies in agriculture.
- There is a lack of awareness, training and education for AI use.
- There is also lack of experts in the field of AI in agriculture.
- At the moment, in Cyprus there is not even demand for AI technologies in agriculture, most probably due to lack of knowledge.
- There is will for knowledge, training and education.

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AI4Agri Project website: https://www.ai-4-agri.eu/

AI4Agri Project e-Learning Platform: https://ai4agri-elearning.eu/

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