

ITF PRESIDENCY STATEMENT ON THE USAGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR, 2024

During its Presidency of the International Transport Forum, Lithuania has highlighted the importance and potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in transforming the transport sector. AI technology offers numerous benefits, including improved traffic management, predictive maintenance, and enhanced logistics, which promise to make transport systems safer, more efficient, and environmentally sustainable.

AI systems, capable of analysing data and making decisions, are significantly impacting various industries, including transport. While AI presents remarkable opportunities, it also introduces challenges related to safety, security, privacy, and accountability. Transport authorities must navigate these complexities to ensure AI systems are safe, trusted, and beneficial.

Public authorities play a crucial role in guiding and regulating AI technologies. As AI continues to change how governments operate, transport authorities must responsibly integrate AI tools into their functions. Sharing experiences and best practices among all responsible players, including state authorities, is vital for effective AI governance.

To harness the benefits of AI and address its challenges, transport authorities should focus on the following areas:

- **Improving Awareness:** Establishing an inventory of AI development, procurement, and use cases within transport authorities is essential. This inventory will enhance oversight and risk assessment, fostering trust in AI's application in the public domain.
- **Assessing and Balancing Risks and Benefits:** Conducting context-specific risk assessments for AI use is crucial. Authorities should identify mitigation measures to ensure AI systems are safe and secure, addressing issues such as privacy, cybersecurity, and accountability.
- **Enhancing AI Literacy and Skills:** Focusing on training and recruitment to fill the AI skills gap within public authorities is vital. Developing a competent workforce will enable better governance and the use of AI technologies.

By advancing the responsible integration of AI in the transport sector, transport authorities can modernise their operations, improve service delivery, and contribute to broader societal benefits. This collaborative effort will drive innovation and economic prosperity and address critical challenges related to the safety and security of our transport network.

The ITF Presidency of Lithuania invites Members of the ITF to build on the dialogue initiated during the Lithuanian Presidency and harness the ITF's expertise to better understand the impacts of AI on transport.

Leipzig, Thursday, 23 May 2024