

# Call for Papers

## Conference on AI Accelerating Sustainable Development Goals (AI4SDG)

The International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the auspices of UNESCO (IRCAI), the Network for Artificial Intelligence, Knowledge and SUSTainable development (NAIXUS) and the Journal of Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development (JAISD) invite researchers, PhD candidates, practitioners, policymakers, innovators, and interdisciplinary scholars to submit original contributions for the AI4SDG Conference in October 2026 at the Jozef Stefan Institute in Ljubljana, Slovenia (hybrid).

Artificial Intelligence is rapidly reshaping societies, economies, governance systems, education, healthcare, environmental monitoring, and industrial processes. As the global community advances toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), AI technologies present transformative opportunities to accelerate sustainable development while also introducing new ethical, governance, and societal challenges.

This special collection aims to explore how AI can support inclusive, ethical, human-centered, and sustainable development across sectors and regions. The collection seeks interdisciplinary research addressing both technological innovation and societal impact, emphasizing practical applications, governance frameworks, policy implications, and responsible deployment of AI for sustainability.

We welcome theoretical, empirical, technical, policy-oriented, and case-study contributions that examine how AI systems can support sustainable futures aligned with the SDGs. Selected papers will be published on a Special Collection at the JAISD later in the year.

## Aims & Objectives

The objectives of this special collection are to:

- Promote cutting-edge scientific and technological research contributing to sustainable development
- Disseminate advanced knowledge and AI expertise across regions, disciplines, and communities
- Develop synergies and cross-fertilization between academia, industry, policymakers, and investors
- Encourage collaborative research ecosystems and international networks of excellence
- Support the creation of virtual and distributed research infrastructures for AI and SDGs

- Advance data-driven benchmarking, monitoring, and impact assessment frameworks for SDGs
- Foster AI solutions that contribute to resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies
- Strengthen educational initiatives and capacity-building activities related to AI and sustainability
- Encourage practical and deployable AI systems with measurable societal impact
- Create opportunities for interdisciplinary dialogue on governance, ethics, regulation, and responsible innovation

## Topics of Interest

Topics include, but are not limited to:

1. GenAI and Agentic AI for open education, OERs and lifelong learning
2. AI for agriculture, food security, and biodiversity
3. AI for climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability
4. Human-centric and trustworthy AI for smart and sustainable cities, AI-enabled digital twins and ethical
5. AI for sports, healthcare, public health, healthy ageing and well-being
6. Federated learning and privacy-preserving AI for energy efficiency and green transitions
7. AI for water management and sustainable infrastructure
8. Ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI in Citizen Science
9. Explainable, transparent, and accountable AI governance, regulation, and policy frameworks
10. Digital inclusion with AI for democracy and public participation
11. Open science and sustainable on AI innovation for cultural heritage and social sustainability
12. Frugal AI, Edge AI and TinyML for SDGs
13. Sustainable AI infrastructures, AI orchestration and green computing
14. Benchmarking, evaluation, and impact assessment with AI for industry, manufacturing, and circular economy
15. Multi-agent systems and collaborative AI for humanitarian action and crisis response

## Organising Committee

- John Shawe-Taylor, IRCAI & UNESCO AI Chair on AI
- Ulrich Paquet, AIMS
- Dunja Mladenić, AI Deptm at JSI
- Marco Zennaro, ICTP
- Marko Grobelnik, IRCAI & OECD AI
- Mitja Jermol, IRCAI & UNESCO Chair on OER
- Joao Pita Costa, IRCAI

## Scientific Committee

- Cristina Godoy, Center of AI and ML at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Dunja Mladenić, AI Deptm at JSI, Slovenia
- Joao Pita Costa, IRCAI, Slovenia
- John Shawe-Taylor, IRCAI & UNESCO AI Chair on AI, UK
- Marko Grobelnik, IRCAI & OECD AI, Slovenia
- Neena Goveas, Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, Goa India
- Marco Zennaro, ICTP, Italy
- Mitja Jermol, IRCAI & UNESCO Chair on OER, Slovenia
- Matjaž Mikoš, UNESCO Chair on Disaster risk reduction, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Ulrich Paquet, AIMS, South Africa
- Andrej Srakar, IRCAI & Economy Faculty of the University of Ljubljana
- Joao Paulo Veiga, USP, Brazil

## Important Dates

- Call open: 30 May 2026
- Abstract submission deadline: 30 June 2026
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 15 July 2026
- Full paper submission deadline: 15 August 2026
- Peer review notification: 15 September 2026
- Conference registration: 15 September 2026
- Conference attendance: 7-11 October 2026

## Submission Guidelines

Authors are invited to submit original and unpublished manuscripts that are not currently under review elsewhere. Submissions may include:

- Original research articles
- Review papers
- Technical papers
- Case studies
- Policy and governance analyses
- Interdisciplinary perspectives

Call for abstracts: The call for abstracts will be open from May 30th to June 30th 2026. Abstracts (300–500 words) should clearly outline the research focus and relevance to the journal's scope/pillar, methodology, and interdisciplinary contribution, as well as anticipated findings or implications.

Review of abstracts: A rolling review process will begin during the final weeks of the call. This will allow early submissions to receive feedback promptly. All abstract reviews will be completed within one month of the call's closing. Selected authors will receive invitations to submit full papers to the JAISD ordinary edition. August 15th to submit 4-page manuscripts (including references). Manuscripts will then undergo peer review. Once authors received their peer reviews, they will have a maximum of 2 weeks to send their final version. The accepted conference papers will be published on September 15, 2026.

Submissions: Manuscripts should follow the JAISD author guidelines and formatting requirements. Please submit abstracts and 4 page manuscripts through the JAISD submission system or via email to: [info@ircai.org](mailto:info@ircai.org) Please indicate in the subject line: **“JAISD Special Collection: AI Accelerating SDGs”**