Issues to be addressed within the EIROforum AI Task and Finish Group

Based on the outcome from EIROforum AI in Science Workshop
30 June 2026 (Brussels)

This document summarizes the key issues identified during the preparation for and discussions at the EIROforum AI in Science Workshop, held in Brussels on 30 June 2026.

The issues are grouped into two categories:

Group A: Issues that require action at the level of the European Commission, including policy changes, funding instruments, eligibility rules, or strategic initiatives put in place by the European Commission (e.g. EuroHPC, EOSC, RAISE).

Group B: Issues that can be addressed primarily through coordination and collaboration within EIROforum itself, without the need for immediate regulatory changes, new funding instruments, or other interventions by the European Commission.

Group A — Issues to be addressed to the EC

These issues require European-level policy decisions, funding instruments, eligibility rule changes, or strategic initiatives that cannot be implemented by EIROforum alone.

#	Item	Substance	Why EC-level action is needed	Ref. item in the report
A1	**Establish dedicated institutional, multi-year access to EuroHPC and AI-Factories for EIROs**	Provide predictable and sustained access to advanced HPC and AI resources for large-scale research infrastructures and their scientific programmes	Current competitive allocation schemes are not adapted to multi-year operational needs of research infrastructures. Eligibility and access models can only be changed at European level.	1.1; 1.3; 5.4

#	Item	Substance	Why EC-level action is needed	Ref. item in the report
A2	**Shift European AI infrastructure access models from resource allocation to service delivery**	Ensure that European AI infrastructures provide integrated access to persistent storage, data movement, inference and model adaptation services, rather than focusing solely on compute allocations.	Current European access schemes focus primarily on compute allocations rather than operational services. Scientific infrastructures require integrated solutions combining storage, data movement, training, inference, model adaptation and support services. Addressing the gap between access granted and access usable requires changes to programme design at European level.	1.2; 1.4
A3	**Recognise EIROs as strategic users and partners within European AI and digital infrastructure initiatives**	Ensure that organisations operating pan-European scientific infrastructures can participate effectively in the governance and strategic planning of initiatives such as EuroHPC, AI Factories, EOSC and related programmes	Participation frameworks and governance structures are defined at European level. These need to be adapted to facilitate the involvement of research infrastructures and to ensure that their long-term operational requirements are adequately reflected in strategic decisions, service offerings, and access models	5.4
A4	**Develop sustainable funding instruments for AI adoption in scientific infrastructures**	Support the deployment, operation and maintenance of AI capabilities, including computing resources, software platforms, data services and specialist personnel	Existing funding schemes are predominantly project-based and do not adequately support long-term operational needs	2.5
A5	**Promote interoperability across European digital and research infrastructures**	Ensure compatibility and integration between data and research infrastructures (with eduGAIN, MyAccessID, EESSI, CernVM-FS, Rucio, FTS), enabling efficient sharing of data, services and computing resources.	Common standards, interfaces and coordination mechanisms require European-level leadership and investment. Improved interoperability would significantly increase the usability and uptake of existing European digital and computing infrastructures	1.3; 2.3

#	Item	Substance	Why EC-level action is needed	Ref. item in the report
A6	**European programmes for AI skills, scientific software and digital workforce development**	Strengthen Europe's scientific workforce through coordinated training, mobility schemes and career paths in AI, data science, HPC and research software engineering	Long-term skills development requires coordinated European investment and programme support	1.5; 4.2; 4.3
A7	**Establish a European framework for scientific data access and AI training**	Enable the responsible use of scientific data for AI development, training and validation while respecting legal, ethical, privacy and security requirements	Harmonised rules and guidance are needed across countries and scientific domains	2.2

Group B — Issues to be addressed within EIROforum members

These items can be addressed primarily through coordination and collaboration within EIROforum itself . Ranked by value created per unit of collective effort, with feasibility inside a one-year mandate weighted heavily.

#	Item	Substance	Ref. item in the report
B1	**Establish a permanent mechanism for AI coordination among EIROs**	Create a standing community for AI coordination, information exchange, prioritisation of common activities, and engagement with external initiatives. This can be implemented directly through the AI Task Force	5.1
B2	**Map AI capabilities, expertise and use cases across EIROs**	Develop a common inventory of AI activities, skills, infrastructures, datasets, use cases and strategic requirements across member organisations. This becomes the evidence base for all subsequent actions.	5.1

B3	**Develop common EIRO positions on AI policy and digital infrastructures**	Develop common EIRO positions on AI policy and digital infrastructures to support engagement with the European Commission, EuroHPC JU, AI Factories, EOSC and related initiatives. Contribution to **A3**	5.4
B4	**Develop a common AI literacy and training framework for EIRO staff**	Develop common training resources, AI literacy programmes, joint schools and communities of practice, with particular focus on researchers, engineers, operators and mid-career staff	4.2; 5.2
B5	**Establish a network of AI champions and experts across EIROs**	Create cross-organisational expert networks to support adoption, provide guidance, share experience and facilitate collaboration on emerging technologies	5.2
B6	**Extend AI capability to mid-career staff, operators, engineers, support personnel**	Extend AI capabilities beyond specialist teams to mid-career researchers, operators, engineers and support personnel through targeted training, communities of practice and practical adoption programmes. This was identified as one of the most important enabling factors for successful AI adoption across research infrastructures. Contribution to **A6**	4.2
B7	**Share methodologies, software and AI models to reduce duplication of effort**	Establish mechanisms for sharing software, models, methodologies, benchmarks, best practices and lessons learned, potentially including a catalogue of reusable assets Contribution to **A5**	2.2; 3.4
B8	**Exchange practices on AI governance and responsible adoption**	Share approaches to validation, benchmarking, risk management, compliance, governance, procurement, industrial partnerships and intellectual property management This would strengthen the evidence base for interaction with EC programmes and initiatives	
B9	**Communities of practice, joint technical groups, shared playbooks, pilots**	This is the group's working method more than a deliverable. Ranked by enabling value	5.2

B10	**AI applied to data curation, discovery and governance**	Genuinely promising, and every member will pursue it regardless. Little collective leverage	2.2
B11	**Identify strategic AI technology priorities for scientific infrastructures**	Coordinate experience and future collaboration on domain-adapted models, AI agents, scientific foundation models, edge AI and low-latency inference	3.1; 3.2
B12	**Exchange experience on industry partnerships, procurement models and IP management**	EIROs already have industrial collaborations and can learn from one another without waiting for EC action Might be specifically important for FP10	5.5

Summary

The items listed above provide a preliminary roadmap for the EIROforum AI Task & Finish Group. Group A identifies issues that should be pursued through coordinated engagement with the European Commission and relevant European initiatives, while Group B outlines actions that can be implemented directly through collaboration among EIROforum members. Together, these actions aim to strengthen the adoption of AI across European scientific infrastructures and maximise the impact of existing and future European investments.