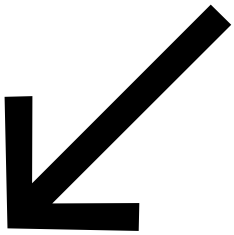
Generative AI

Greece 2030

Futures of Generative AI in Greece

With the support of the
Special Secretariat of Foresight
Presidency of the Greek Government

Generative Ai



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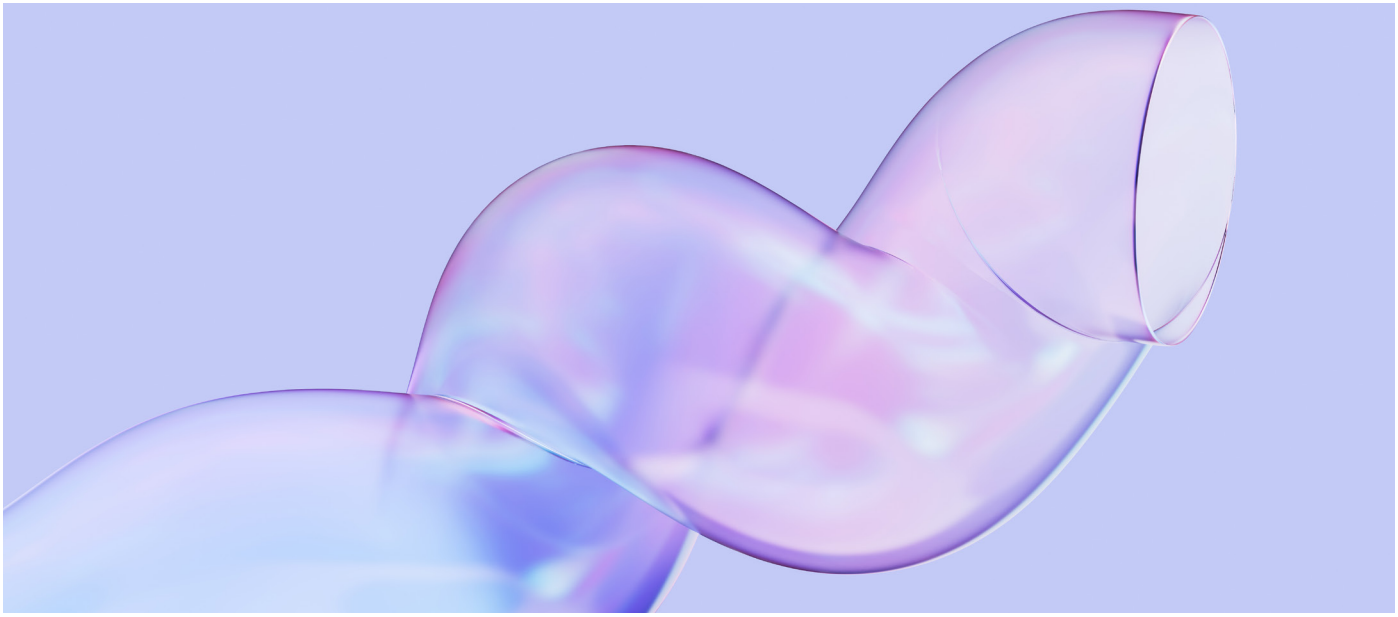
Executive Summary

The present study is the first empirical strategic foresight research approach on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI) in Greece. The study, conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (EKKE) and the NCSR "Demokritos", with the support of the Special Secretariat of Foresight, presents trends, opportunities, challenges, uncertainties and possible options that will shape the future of the Gen AI ecosystem in Greece. It provides a framework of proposed strategic initiatives and policy recommendations. Its main objective is to draw on the collective knowledge and foresight perceptions of a sample of Greek experts/specialists on the impact of the domestic Gen AI ecosystem, in the time frame of 2030.

More specifically, following a thorough preliminary desk research, systematic literature review and multimethod horizon scanning, we proceeded to interviews using questionnaires. The informants are a rich and inclusive group of 30 experts representing different stakeholders (public administration, research-academic community, business-private sector and civil society, professional and scientific associations), who are systematically involved in Gen AI. They were asked to evaluate a series of hypotheses and statements on the future (or possible futures) of Gen AI in the country until 2030.



- Gen AI is already here and seems to be an exponential and rather irreversible technosocial development that we have to learn to live with, avoiding the risks and taking advantage of its numerous benefits. This is a shared conclusion among our informants, although almost all of them consider that Gen AI is at a very early stage, especially in Greece. Today, we are only observing fragments of tomorrow's Gen AI's landscape. However, it is likely that it will not take a long time for the landscape to take shape.
- The mainstreaming of GEN AI, either as general purpose or as special purpose technology, is expected to have a large and multi-level impact on Greek society by 2030, with a prevailing optimistic outlook on the nature of this impact. This optimism rests on the potential for qualitative changes in the way we live, interact, work, learn, produce and consume.
- Striving to assess how the dynamics of Gen AI could evolve towards 2030, it is necessary to consider both the enabling factors that play a catalytic role and the inhibiting factors that limit or hinder the development of Gen AI. The main accelerating factors include advances in new technologies that expand the technical capabilities of Gen AI, digital literacy, large investments (both public and direct private investments as well as public-private partnerships) by the technology sector, and the will of public policy, the economy as a macro-scale, businesses (for-profit or social) and society to embrace and harness GEN AI. Key inhibitors include lack of interoperability and competitive standards, lack of digital literacy, incentives and long-term plans, defensive or technophobic mindsets as well as technology use fatigue.
- Although all informants prefer an open, inclusive and democratic breed of Gen AI, there is a significant proportion of participants who regard and foresee that the technological field will be closed and centralized, dominated by few corporate actors, along with many digital inequalities and algorithmic injustices.
- Issues of digital ethics and regulation are of great concern to experts. On the one hand, excessive political or corporate interference and control could limit the level of functionality and innovation of GEN AI. On the other hand, a low level of regulation could make users feel insecure about the reliability of content (e.g., fake news and deepfakes), their privacy and confidentiality, leading to a less positive and healthy culture of GEN AI use.
- By 2030, targeted action and proactive policies around Gen AI will be important and necessary for both private companies and the public sector.

This research presents four scenarios of possible alternative future images of Gen AI in Greece by 2030. The first is called «techno-social acceleration», where the world is described as adaptable and freed from technophobic entanglements, while the sustainability and value of the Gen AI ecosystem are at a high level accompanied by a fairly resilient liberal political system. In the second scenario, the «techno-dwarf», the open economy and a set of favorable political intentions prevail, but the GEN AI ecosystem loses momentum and is not a priority due to excessive regulations and strict bureaucratic rules. The third scenario is described by the term 'technosocial tarriness". It represents a stunted or underdeveloped Gen AI ecosystem in a closed and technophobic world, alongside a significant lack of ethical and regulatory frameworks, public policies, and institutional interventions. The fourth scenario depicts a «techno-giant» with feeble, poor legs and represents a Gen AI ecosystem that reflects the global technological boom, but within a socio-cultural and political environment that is unable to turn speed into adaptation, to integrate modern techno-evolutions and to exploit the possibilities and opportunities they offer.

The global geopolitical and geo-economic order is becoming increasingly uncertain, complex and unstable. Gen AI seems to amplify these systemic features, highlighting the need for an 'exponential' and future-oriented way of thinking. We cannot be sure what the future holds, nor can we avoid constant disruption in an era of permacrisis. But it is up to us to harness this generalized uncertainty/complexity, set long-term goals, adapt institutions and mindsets, be adequately prepared and work towards the most favorable scenario - i.e., the 'technosocial acceleration' scenario - to enhance the country's capacity for sustainable growth and resilient prosperity, based on dynamic diagnoses of the trends, uncertainties and opportunities emerging around us.

Trends - Opportunities for Greece - Vulnerabilities - Uncertainties -
Scenarios - Politics Proposals -

GenAI & Greece 2030

Greece 2024

National Centre for Social Research (EKKE)
& “Demokritos” National Centre of Scientific
Research (NCSR)

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