Public Sector and Artificial Intelligence: An Unexpected Union?

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Definitions and Questions

1

Let's Be Honest

As governments begin to rely more heavily on AI, it's important to remember that we don't know everything. Let's start by defining our terms and asking the right questions.

2

The Estonian Case

As early adopters of AI in the public sector, it is clear that Estonia has much to share. But how do we define and measure success? What are the necessary competencies in government?

3

Who is Leading the Way?

The Nordics are well-poised to be leaders in the field of public sector AI. What does this mean for Europe as a whole? And what can we learn from each other to ensure that progress benefits everyone?

Digital Transformation in the Public Sector

What Does Digital Transformation Mean?

As we navigate the age of AI, asking the right questions becomes crucial for the public sector. It sparks a mindset shift, enabling us to explore the role and responsibility of the public sector in harnessing the power of AI and data.

What Does human-centric mean?

By asking the difficult questions, we can envision the kind of services the public sector could and should be providing. This opens up a dialogue, presenting an opportunity and challenge to create a new generation of human-centric services.

Power and responsibility

"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked" - *Luke 12:48/ Uncle Ben from Spider Man*

Estonia: Challenges in Implementing Data-Based Governance

Successes

Interoperability
Significant success in enabling interoperability across government systems.

Consent service
Estonia's consent service could be a notable achievement, empowering citizens to control their personal data.

Innovative use cases
Bürokratt + use cases of data and AI in various sectors from assessing energy efficiency of buildings to measuring the thinkness of snow.

Challenges

AI for businesses
Effectively implementing AI for businesses, taking into account the demographic and cultural context.

Data-based e-Governance
Leveraging data for informed decision-making, requiring a focus on data literacy and analytics skills.

Defining the right level of ambition
Estonia, already a digital country, must navigate the challenge of determining the appropriate level of ambition for data-based governance and AI in its public sector.

Global Developments

"A future where AI is seen as the next transformative wave of technology."

"The importance of governments and the public sector in shaping this future responsibly."

"The proposal and acceptance of a global expert panel, likened to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is aimed at keeping abreast of AI developments."

"There is a recognition that with the power of AI comes the potential for fear and danger. It is the responsibility of leaders to confront these challenges proactively."

"For the first time, there is a consensus on the various risks posed by AI, from social issues to extreme misuse."

"The proposal and acceptance of a global expert panel, likened to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, is aimed at keeping abreast of AI developments."

"The Summit successfully convened global leaders, indicating a political will and capability to regulate AI technology."

"A shift from private companies being sole testers of AI safety to a more collaborative and transparent approach involving the public sector."

"New AI Safety Institutes are to be established for testing AI models, ensuring public sector involvement in oversight."

Meanwhile, up North...

A New Social Contract

As we move towards a data-driven government, we need a new social contract that ensures transparency, accountability and privacy, while still driving innovation and progress.

Making sense of and with data

One of the key competencies we need in government to ensure an AI-driven public sector is the ability to read, interpret and understand data.

Cooperation with, and for Europe

It's important for Nordic countries to cooperate and test out future solutions that also work for the whole EU, so that the benefits of digitisation are felt by everyone.

Conclusion

1

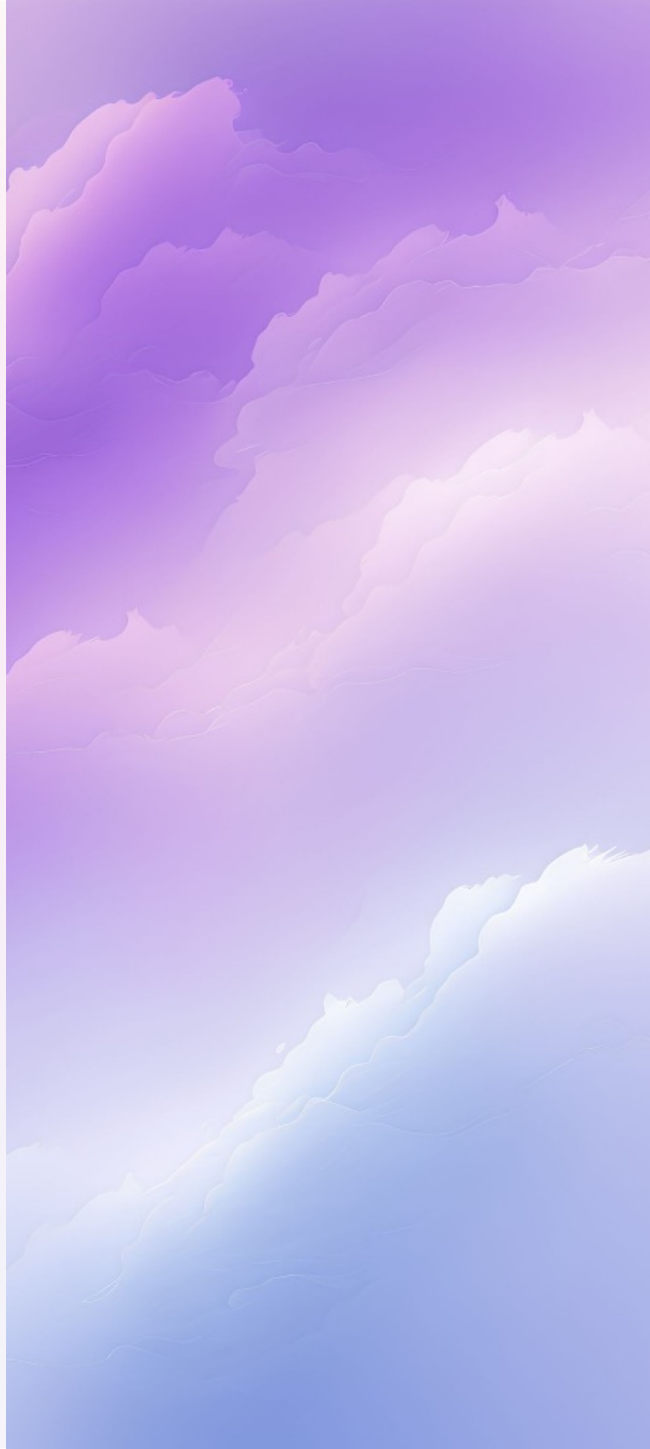
Realistic Optimism

To achieve progress in governmental AI and data initiatives, we need to be realistically optimistic. This means acknowledging the challenges and doing our homework to clean up the data we have. It also involves having honest conversations about the things we know and don't know.

2

Reaching a Social Contract

By working together and looking for ways to reach a social contract, Nordic and European countries can harness the power of AI and data to create more efficient, ethical, and just public sectors for all citizens.



Thank you and let's stay in touch!

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