Next level public administration: AI and the development of public administration in EU Member States

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Abstract: This research explores in a comparative manner the stages of development and integration of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the public administration of EU Member States. The objective of this study is to identify a framework of tendencies and patterns at EU level regarding the codification, definition, operationalization and integration of AI tools and systems, big data, automation and machine learning in the regulations and strategies at national and European level. We argue that AI represents an integrated dimension in the digital transformation and the future of public administration in EU Member States, boosting, streamlining the quality and quantity of public services, the activity of public institutions and the process of developing and adopting public policies.

Using a strategic radar of AI in public administration in the EU Member States tailored on 5 pillars (Governments, Technology Sector, Data & Infrastructure, AI initiatives in the public sector and the Impact of AI on economic development) and a grid of analysis composed of 20 quantitative indicators, we identify the main typologies for anticipation and preparation of the future of public administration through the development, integration and use of AI in all EU Member states. Different trends and perspectives help us map the share of AI in the initial and advanced stages of shaping the future of public administration. Finally, we explain the contrast between the common European approach regulating AI in relation to the capabilities and investments of EU Member States in the field of digitalisation.