

An Open Letter to Central and Eastern European Governments

Unity Trumps Competition: A Call for A Joint CEE AI Gigafactory Proposal

Dear Prime Ministers, Ministers, and Leaders of Central and Eastern Europe,

The undersigned organizations urgently call upon your governments to abandon individual competitive/national approaches and unite the whole region behind a single, transformative proposal for a European AI Gigafactory. With limited EU funding available and intense global competition, separate bids from individual CEE countries or small clusters risk leaving the entire region empty-handed. This is in line with the first recommendation of the CEE Action Plan, published by the AI Chamber and its partner associations in June 2025.

It is not only better to secure one world-class AI Gigafactory in CEE than to have none at all, but a joint undertaking of this size and importance will help the much-needed links between our national AI ecosystem. The returns will be tremendous and long-lasting, going far beyond mere infrastructure and computer resources.

CEE governments face a defining moment. Several countries are supporting their individual proposals for AI Gigafactories or have applied in small clusters, hoping to secure the flagship regional compute and data storage hub. As outlined in the EU funding proposal. This fragmented approach is strategically flawed and economically dangerous.

The mathematics are stark:

- EU funding can realistically support **one major AI infrastructure hub in CEE**
- Having five separate proposals compete against each other almost guarantees failure for at least four of them - and possibly all five
- **A single unified proposal**, backed by 11 CEE countries, or at least the majority of them, becomes the **strongest candidate in Europe and is guaranteed to win funding.**

Why Individual Proposals Will Fail

In the current setup, EU evaluators will view multiple CEE bids as evidence of poor regional coordination, with separate proposals duplicating efforts instead of building a genuine regional advantage. On their own, individual countries also lack the negotiating power to compete with Western European consortia.

We are facing competing bids from well-established and funded Western European consortia, beating CEE in existing infrastructure as well as political influence.

In this context, it's crucial to **fully leverage our collective strength as a region:**

- Combined 100+ million population market presents a compelling economic case
- Political clout of 11 nation-states
- Pooled engineering talent from across CEE ensures world-class implementation, better dissemination of knowledge and best practices, and a higher return on investment.

This is not merely about computing infrastructure - this is about whether CEE will participate meaningfully in the AI-driven economy or remain a peripheral market dependent on Western European and non-European providers.

Conclusion

The undersigned organizations represent the innovation ecosystems across Central and Eastern Europe. In line with the CEE AI Action plan, we strongly urge individual CEE countries, currently competing against one another for limited EU funding, to coordinate their efforts from now on, beginning with a joint bid for a European AI Gigafactory.

We would rather have one AI Gigafactory serving the entire CEE region than watch five individual proposals fail and leave us with nothing.

CEE governments must choose: unite behind shared success or fragment toward collective failure.

One CEE. One proposal. Shared success.

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