Case 10 - LTU AI DIH (Sweden) - test-before-invest service

<u>LTU AI</u> DIH (Sweden) is coordinated by <u>Lulea Tekniska Universitet</u> and is a National Center for applied Artificial Intelligence, supported by the Swedish government and the public and private sectors with the mission to accelerate the use of AI not only in local industry but also across public entities structures. The hub focuses on <u>7 strategic areas</u> that aim at not only solving key issues for accelerating and industrializing AI in Sweden, but also providing platforms in which several <u>partners</u>, from academia, public sector and industry can collaborate.

Supporting more than 25 local and international SMEs on an annual level, LTU AI DIH provides access to a wide range of services including a <u>Start-up</u> and <u>Executive AI Accelerator programme</u>. In addition, SMEs and start-ups are offered the opportunity to benefit from the hub's <u>Data Factory</u>, an in-house laboratory facility, where companies can take part in existing projects or experiments in the Testbed environment. One recent example is when AstraZeneca used the Data Factory to challenge experts in machine learning to find a solution to avoid preprocessing of cell cultures when testing new drugs, allowing them to leapfrog the production process. In addition, the <u>Edge Lab</u> is a unique testbed environment that enables developers, data scientists, students, researchers, and other users to explore and learn about the possibilities and limitations of Edge AI.

Example of service provided to a public entity

The hub has also provided service to several public authorities including the Swedish National Space Agency who realised the value of space data in weather forecasts, monitoring climate changes in forestry, agriculture and other fields in which up-to-date information about vegetation and the land surface is needed. The National Space Agency needed to increase its knowledge base on the matter and collect data for Swedish authorities' in order to support their work on earth observation data and in the development of AI-based analysis, generated in space systems. In support of this venture, the hub created a national infrastructure for exploitation of space data in order to increase the possibilities of developing smart and effective AI solutions for several domains ranging from storage of space data to how constellations of satellites in orbit can be managed. The users of the data lab are primarily public authorities which hold responsibility for civil, environmental and natural resources including also large forestry companies, individual farmers and private entities.