



SIG-AI SWOT Analysis - 2026

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2026

Public

Summary

- SIG-AI SWOT Analysis
- Closing remarks

2026 - SIG-AI SWOT Exercise

- Steering Committee brainstorming, and
- Mentimeter session during 6th SIG-AI Meeting - March, 2026 – 50 participants



SIG-AI SWOT Analysis

Strenghts

- Community-driven collaboration
- Active knowledge & experience sharing
- Platform for practical problem-solving and idea exchange
- AI is a high-interest, engaging topic
- Motivation to experiment and test AI solutions
- Cross-NREN learning
- Synergies with networking, cybersecurity and other domains (even non-technical)
- AI maturity gaps across NRENs - gives a balance to keep the topics relevant

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A highly engaged community with strong knowledge-sharing desire.

The SIG enables the community to explore and advance AI together.

SIG-AI SWOT Analysis

Weaknesses

- Too much discussion, not enough implementation
- Lack of mechanisms to operationalise concrete outputs
- Uneven AI maturity across NRENs
- Lack of focus reduces tangible outcomes
- Resource and manpower constraints
- Knowledge gaps in the community
- Fragmented interests from NRENs
- AI maturity diversity across NRENs reducing the depth of discussion on AI

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Limited resources, fragmented focus, and **no clear path to enable** the translation of ideas into concrete, scalable outcomes.

SIG-AI SWOT Analysis

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Threats

- Dependence on commercial models, tools and infra (hyperscalers)
- Increasing regulatory complexity
- Difficulty attracting and retaining AI talent in NRENs and consequently for SIG engagement
- Fragmentation of AI initiatives
- Rapid AI evolution (to keep updated)
- Limited and uncertain AI funding landscape for NRENs
- All SIGs are discussing AI
- Burst of the AI bubble - Loss of engagement/interest

With the rapid AI evolution, regulatory complexity, talent scarcity in the community

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the limited mandate of the SIG, can limit the practical impact in the community.

SIG-AI SWOT Analysis

Opportunities

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- Promote shared/federated AI infrastructure - navigating GEANT Community development opportunities
- Bridge gaps between large and small NRENs
- Position NRENs strategically in the AI ecosystem
- Strengthen AI governance and policy role
- European AI Governance and Policy Momentum
- Expand collaboration (industry & commercial stakeholders)
- Upskill community through trainings
- To put in practice use cases
- Create shared repository of use cases, tools, best practices
- Keep it technical
- Topic of interest also for non-tech community

AI is now!

Strategic window for NRENs to **position** themselves through shared infrastructure, federated services: SIG needs to promote AI services knowledge exchange.

SIG-AI SWOT Analysis

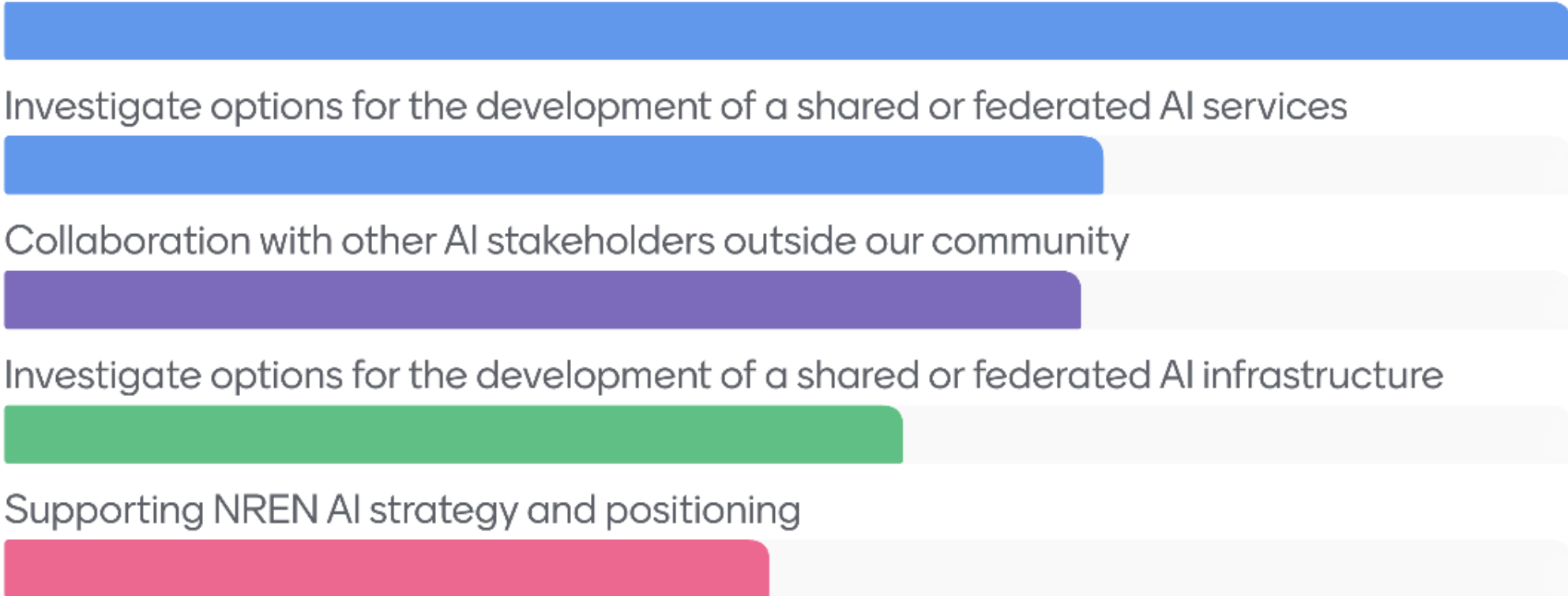


SIG-AI Strategic Priorities

(Use strengths to capture opportunities)

- Use strong collaboration
 - To build federated AI infrastructure and services
 - To propose projects together
- Use knowledge sharing
 - To increase maturity across NRENs
 - To upskill AI in the community

SIG-AI SWOT Analysis – Priorities for next 1-2 years

1. Sharing best practices and AI services ideas between NRENs
 2. Investigate options for the development of a shared or federated AI services
 3. Collaboration with other AI stakeholders outside our community
 4. Investigate options for the development of a shared or federated AI infrastructure
 5. Supporting NREN AI strategy and positioning
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- | Priority | Description | Relative Priority (Bar Length) |
|----------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Sharing best practices and AI services ideas between NRENs | High |
| 2 | Investigate options for the development of a shared or federated AI services | Medium-High |
| 3 | Collaboration with other AI stakeholders outside our community | Medium |
| 4 | Investigate options for the development of a shared or federated AI infrastructure | Medium-Low |
| 5 | Supporting NREN AI strategy and positioning | Low |

SIG-AI SWOT Analysis



SIG-AI resilience strategy

(use strengths to neutralize threats and weaknesses)

- Use community-driven innovation and strong collaboration
 - To share services ideas and reduce dependency on commercial and hyperscalers
- Use shared expertise
 - To respond faster to AI evolution, and
 - To reduce uneven NREN AI maturity
- Use high interest on AI and synergies with other domains
 - To collaborate with other SIGs to keep the community engaged with the topic
 - To reduce fragmentation

SIG-AI SWOT Analysis



SIG-AI “must-avoid” zones

(where weaknesses can block opportunities and amplify risks)

- Diversity of NRENs (AI maturity, strategies) + weak coordination of efforts
 - increases **fragmentation and AI maturity gap**
- Low resources + fast AI evolution
 - Increases the risk of falling behind
- The lack of focus + fragmentation of the topic
 - Loss of relevance of SIG-AI
- Lack of tangible outcomes (paths)
 - Blocks real AI services deployment in NRENs

SIG-AI SWOT Analysis



Which factors could limit the impact of AI initiatives in the NREN community?



SIG-AI SWOT Analysis - Conclusions



- **Sustained engagement though experience sharing** remaining practical and technical to be relevant.
- **Map opportunities for tangible outcomes**
Show the path toward concrete and collaborative projects (use cases, pilots, and reusable outputs).
- **Fragmentation is the main structural risk**
Coordination is critical (topics, maturity, diversity)
- **AI Federated Services is the strategic opportunity**
Can position NRENs strongly in the AI ecosystem.



Thank You

Any questions?

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