



State of AI in Tunisia

AI Strategy & Prevalence

Since 2018, Tunisia has started a process to develop a national AI strategy. The Tunisian Startup Act, implemented in 2018, provided incentives to entrepreneurs to encourage them to innovate in the use of AI.

Infographic is based on semi-structured interviews conducted by the A2K4D research team.

AI Applications

- Many startups use AI in different configurations and environments, such as language processing, analyzing large quantities of textual data, credit scoring, and to tabulate and influence consumer behavior.
- Machine learning is the most prevalent AI technology and there is a rise in AI-based products, led by the private sector.

The Challenges

- Infrastructure barriers in relation to cloud storage services for computing and collecting big data remains an issue.
- Lack of appropriate educational modules to cope with new technologies.
- There is a huge gap between usage of AI in the public and private sectors.

Recommendations:

- 01** *More effort should be done to collect as much data as possible, governments should share more of their data with the public or with organizations working on AI.*
- 02** *Access to the Internet, education in coding, and accelerating the upgrades of technical programs, data search services, computing power capacities, and software engineering are needed.*



State of AI in Egypt

AI Strategy & Prevalence

Egypt is an adopter of AI, in the process of drafting a national AI strategy.

Infographic is based on semi-structured interviews conducted by the A2K4D research team.

AI Applications

- The focus is mainly in telecommunications and banking sectors.
- Machine learning is used in fields such as e-commerce and credit scoring.
- AI presents leapfrog potential in key sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, water management, healthcare, economic planning, and education.

The Challenges

- The legislative environment is prohibiting to the development of new technologies.
- Unavailability of quality data sets.
- Lack of suitable infrastructure to support large data sets.

Recommendations:

- 01 *Government should provide an enabling legislative environment.*
- 02 *Create data governance policies and strategies.*



State of AI in Lebanon

AI Strategy & Prevalence

Lebanon has some non-governmental AI initiatives, but does not have an AI strategy.

Infographic is based on semi-structured interviews conducted by the A2K4D research team.

AI Applications

- AI-related initiatives in Lebanon are related to media and advertising.
- AI bootcamps exist where students are introduced to AI implementations, such as the Internet of Things (IOT).

The Challenges

- Both infrastructure and the legislative environment need improvement.
- There is a general lack of awareness on the potential of data and AI.
- Lack of data openness and transparency; which plays a huge role in many of Lebanon's problems.

Recommendations:

- 01 *Creating an open data portal; local, contextualized and updated data sets, in addition to the integration of advisors, data-driven actors, and governmental actors.*
- 02 *Creating an alliance of academia, entrepreneurs, the private sector, in addition to investing in AI projects.*



State of AI in Jordan

AI Strategy & Prevalence

The government began drafting an AI strategy by creating an ethics committee to discuss the implications of applying the technology.

Infographic is based on semi-structured interviews conducted by the A2K4D research team.

AI Applications

- Jordan has a good startup scene focusing on neuro-linguistic programming (NLP) technology and the arabization of existing AI technologies elsewhere.

The Challenges

- Difficulty in obtaining public sector data sets and other data ownership issues.
- Startups face many bureaucratic and legal issues.

Recommendations:

- 01 *The government should act as a regulator, supporter, and policy facilitator for the AI sector.*
- 02 *Reforming the education system to close the gap with labor market demands.*
- 03 *Creating stronger data protection laws.*



State of AI in UAE

AI Strategy & Prevalence

In 2017, the UAE Government launched 'UAE Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI)'.

Infographic is based on semi-structured interviews conducted by the A2K4D research team.

AI Applications

- The UAE hosted the first robotics lab in the wider region of the Gulf in 2007, Media Lab.
- AI uses also extend to efficiency and performance, consumer satisfaction, insurance systems, calculating risk factors, security and biometrics in airports, and detection and diagnostics for hospitals.

The Challenges

- Negative impact that AI could have on the future of work, employment and the job market.
- Need for AI to augment, rather than replace, humans.

Recommendations:

- 01 *An interdisciplinary framework with individuals from different academic backgrounds contributing to forward-looking legislation.*
- 02 *Reforming the education system to close the gap with labor market demands.*