



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## DEFENCE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY FOR ESTONIA

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary goal of this initial defence Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy (the Strategy) for institutions governed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of Estonia, is to provide guidance for the development and adoption of AI through the specification of key objectives and a framework for implementation.

Implementing AI within the MoD-governed institutions must be of practical value and increase Estonia's defence capabilities through the following objectives:

- (1) **Establishing direct military advantages** by supporting decision making, enhancing intelligence processing and accelerating the targeting process.
- (2) **Improving the efficiency of support services and logistics** through a faster and more accurate analysis capability and the reduction of administrative burden.
- (3) **Strengthening the local defence industry** through increased partnership between the Estonian Defence Forces (EDF) and the defence industry, driven by the development and application of defence AI.

The pre-requisite to achieving the stated objectives is a clear understanding within the MoD-governed institutions of how AI will improve the EDF's warfighting capabilities and the supporting capabilities of all other MoD-governed institutions. There are five main categories of actions for achieving this:

- (1) **Establishing a unit responsible for the digital and technological development of the EDF:** In the context of a potential restructuring of the EDF Joint Headquarters, the EDF will consider appointing a Chief Innovation Officer and/or a Chief Digitalisation Officer, with the competence, mandate and an allocated budget to holistically direct and prioritise technological developments, including AI, within the EDF and the MoD-governed institutions.
- (2) **Establishing a digital information infrastructure for the EDF:** For the systematic development and implementation of AI, the EDF will plan and build a digital infrastructure capable of accommodating AI solutions. Additionally, the MoD will establish the necessary universal data concepts and standards relevant for MoD-governed institutions.
- (3) **Cultivating advanced technological awareness and AI skills within the EDF:** The curricula of the Estonian Military Academy will be updated and funding for studies focused on defence AI will be increased to ensure the required number of AI specialists with appropriate domain-specific competence.
- (4) **Collaborating with civilian agencies to support the development of defence AI:** Collaboration with the Estonian private sector as well as higher education and research institutions will be strengthened for optimal use of available technologically competent human resources.
- (5) **Participating in international networks and ensuring interoperability with Allies:** Priorities for AI-related international cooperation will be established to ensure the development of defence AI while maintaining and strengthening interoperability with the NATO Allies.

Looking ahead, the implementation of the above actions must result in the level of defence AI development that will help achieve the following by 2030:

- The required level of advance warning and decision-making speed across all domains and levels of

- warfare;
- Adequate interoperability with the ever-evolving capabilities of Allied forces in all key areas;
- The development of defence AI builds on civilian capabilities, civilian structures and the concept of comprehensive national defence;
- The development of defence AI is conducted in cooperation with the Estonian defence industry and NATO Allies;
- Defence AI development and implementation projects undergo continuous progress and are reviewed for timeliness.

The implementation plan of the Strategy will be updated regularly, at minimum once a year. This will ensure that the MoD-governed institutions will achieve the capability for systematic AI adoption by 2030. Given the speed of AI advancements in general, this Strategy and the associated objectives will be reviewed at least every two years.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Owing to the exponential growth of computing power, the learning and adaptive capabilities of AI systems have increased notably in recent years, attracting considerable attention in the society and leading to a rapid growth in the number of AI applications. The explosive development of AI has the potential to transform the evolution of human kind to the same extent as the Industrial Revolution, which changed the power structure of states, the factors shaping the balance of power between states, and enabled states to set new and previously unattainable goals. It is clear that the robust development of AI also has a profound impact on the defence sector, and keeping up with these developments is of utmost importance for the overall development of Estonia and for ensuring Estonia's national security.

A notable part of Ukraine's losses during Russia's full-scale invasion since 2022 has been caused by the former's conventional weapons systems (specifically indirect fire). Therefore, Estonia's main priority in its military capability development will be procuring additional weapon systems with a sufficient amount of ammunition to engage the enemy from a sufficient distance and to protect the nation and the EDF from direct impact. This priority is reflected in the [2025-2028 Development Plan of the MoD-governed Institutions](#), which outlines that €1.55 billion of a total budget of €5.3 billion will be invested in ammunition.

On the other hand, substantive firepower needs to be supported by fast and accurate targeting, alongside timely and adequate decision-making capacity. The explosive development of AI has led to a rapid development and application of cognitive tools, increasing the speed of warfare and the number of autonomous weapons systems on the battlefield. Across the military conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, AI has primarily been used to support decision-making, intelligence processing, and targeting. What makes Ukraine's achievements particularly impressive is the speed of change in the doctrine of warfare and the country's ability to develop and effectively deploy a range of AI-enabled systems in time of war. Such systems include [Delta](#), an interactive situational awareness system integrating a range of sensors, weapons systems and units, as well as [Avengers](#), a sensor-based battlefield intelligence solution. Further, AI systems integrated to air defence have enabled repelling missile strikes in which Russia uses ballistic and cruise missiles simultaneously.

Considering Estonia's small territory and limited resources available for defence, applying technological solutions, similarly to Ukraine, is vital for Estonia. Combined, effective use of AI and autonomous systems is one of the opportunities available to Estonia for creating asymmetric and cost-effective advantages, despite the size discrepancy vis-à-vis the adversary. Utilising new technologies intelligently and systematically, Estonia

can increase its deterrence and combat capabilities and impede, or even prevent a potential invasion.

This Strategy was drafted in collaboration with representatives from the Ministry of Defence, the Estonian Defence Forces (including the Cyber Command, the Military Intelligence Centre, the Estonian Military Academy), the Estonian Defence League, the Estonian Foreign Intelligence Service, the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, and the CR14 Foundation. The authors of the Strategy also consulted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs, and the Government Office, as well as various representatives of the Estonian defence industry.

Fulfilling the objectives and preconditions outlined in the Strategy will be dependent on resources allocated in the next National Defence Development Plan (2026-2035). The Strategy also takes into account the following documents covering sector-specific developments:

- [Foundations of Estonian Security Policy](#) (available in Estonian)
- [Science and Innovation Policy for the MoD-governed Institutions](#) (available in Estonian)
- [Defence Industry Policy](#)
- [Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications Artificial Intelligence Action Plan](#) (available in Estonian)
- [Coalition Agreement of the Government of the Republic of Estonia](#) (available in Estonian)
- [NATO's Revised Artificial Intelligence Strategy](#)
- [NATO Science & Technology Trends Report 2020-2040](#)
- [NATO Science & Technology Trends Report 2023-2043](#)

## 1.1 The Definition of Artificial Intelligence

Despite the dramatic acceleration of AI in recent years, the term was first used already in the mid-1950s. The application of AI in warfare is not novel either. According to the [Data, Analytics and Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy](#) of the US Department of Defense (DoD), published in November 2023, data- and AI-based systems have been developed and applied in warfare for over 60 years.

The NATO Science & Technology Organization's (STO) [2020-2040 Trends Report](#) defines AI as "the ability of machines to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence – for example, recognising patterns, learning from experience, drawing conclusions, making predictions, or taking action – whether digitally or as the smart software behind autonomous physical systems."

The STO [2023-2043 Trends Report](#) expands the AI definition to include "systems that display intelligent behaviour by analysing their environment and taking actions – with some degree of autonomy – to achieve specific goals. AI-based systems can be purely software-based, acting in the virtual world (e.g. voice assistants, image analysis software, search engines, speech and face recognition systems). Alternatively, AI can be embedded in hardware devices (e.g. advanced robots, autonomous cars, drones or Internet of Things applications)."

Unlike automation, which executes specific tasks within the parameters of pre-defined rules, AI systems are capable of learning and adapting autonomously to new situations to a greater or lesser extent.

## 2. THE CURRENT SITUATION

### 2.1 The World, European Union, NATO and Allies

Given the rapid development of AI and its increasing impact on society, countries and international organisations are actively working to map the potential applications of AI and to address the associated challenges. According to the [2024 Artificial Intelligence Index Report](#) by Stanford University, 75 countries have developed national AI development strategies.

The robust progress in AI development has also created a need for regulation. In 2021, the European Commission presented the [EU Artificial Intelligence Act](#), which will take effect in summer 2026. Although non-EU countries are also developing legislation to regulate AI, the EU regulation is considered the most comprehensive and ambitious in the world to date.

In light of this Strategy, it is critical that the EU regulation does not apply to public and private entities developing AI systems solely for defence or national security purposes. Whilst certain exemption is unavoidable for developing defence AI, the West's ambition for thorough regulation and ethical use of AI can create constraints. This introduces a dilemma of how to best ensure the optimal effectiveness of defence AI applications, while ensuring that such solutions are not technologically inferior to those developed by Russia and China, which operate under notably fewer regulatory constraints.

NATO published its first Artificial Intelligence strategy in October 2021, with the broader aim of securing the Alliance's technological advantage and collective security in a rapidly changing security environment through the application of AI. The [STO 2023-2043 Trends Report](#) identifies AI as one of the key technologies with a major impact on NATO operations and capabilities. At the 2024 Washington Summit, NATO presented [the revised AI strategy](#), with four primary objectives:

- (1) Provide a foundation for NATO and Allies to lead by example and encourage the development and use of AI in a responsible manner for Allied defence and security purposes;
- (2) Accelerate and mainstream AI adoption in capability development and delivery, enhancing interoperability as a key element within the Alliance, including through the delivery of AI Use Cases;
- (3) Protect and monitor our AI technologies, manage related risks, and protect our ability to innovate, addressing security policy considerations such as the operationalization of our PRUs; and
- (4) Identify and safeguard against the threats from adversarial use of AI.

Among Estonia's key allies, the US is the undisputed leader in the defence AI, having published a respective [strategy](#). The US approach follows the so-called Third Offset Strategy, which aims to promote and deploy technologies that ensure the superiority of US forces in network-centric warfare fought with precision-guided munition. A part of this approach is to make certain processes and systems autonomous and to incorporate such systems into the US battlefield network to support and improve the performance of those engaged on the battlefield. The DoD recognises the broader potential of AI and has thus established the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office to implement AI across the agency.

The UK, Canada, Norway, France, Germany and the Netherlands have all published defence AI strategies in addition to the US. Denmark and Turkey have outlined defence-related objectives in their national AI strategies; Finland and Spain have done the same in their digital transformation strategies. Belgium, Greece, Hungary and Latvia have announced that they are working on respective defence AI strategies.

Considering the intensive development of defence AI among Allies, developing and applying defence AI in Estonia is not only a necessity, but to an extent, an obligation to ensure interoperability with nations contributing to Estonia's security.

## 2.2 Russia

In coordinating the technological development of the MoD-governed institutions, including the EDF, one must consider the technological advancements of Estonia's likely adversary. It is of critical importance to avoid a situation in which the EDF's personnel would lack the knowledge, skills and resources to deter and fight against the adversary's autonomous systems on the battlefield.

Although Russia owes most of its achievements in the war against Ukraine to traditional weapons systems, it is searching for methods to fight more effectively and intelligently – both in the ongoing war against Ukraine and in preparing for a potential confrontation with NATO. Both the Ukrainian and Russian armed forces have shown their ability to develop, deploy and copy innovative solutions. The Russian troops extensively use surveillance and attack drones<sup>1</sup> (e.g. Orlan and Lancet), constantly adding and developing new capabilities and operational tactics. The innovation cycle in Ukraine is measured in weeks, while the adversary's new tactics or technological solutions are typically neutralised or counter-adopted quickly.

A Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies [article](#) on Russia's strategic goals in developing defence AI illustrates the Kremlin's thinking on deploying defence AI. For example, Vladimir Putin said in 2022 that AI will determine Russia's security, sovereignty and position in the world. Putin has also expressed support for deploying lethal autonomous weapon systems, and considers the most effective weapon system to be one that supports rapid and near-automatic engagement. The Russian leadership also perceives the application of AI as an opportunity to compensate for its technological shortcomings compared to the West, both from a military and economic perspective.

Established in 2013, the Main Directorate of Innovative Development (GUIR) of the Ministry of Defence coordinates military research and development in Russia. The GUIR network comprises of 1,200 institutions, including several test centres for AI, autonomous solutions and robotics. Russia also established a national center for AI development in 2022. The key objectives for using AI are established in two documents published in 2014 on the development and application of robotics in warfare up to 2025 and 2030 respectively.

Additionally, the Russian leadership is placing significant focus on developing dual-use technologies and equipment, as well as on civil-military scientific cooperation. As of 2022, 150 companies and educational institutions were engaged in the development of AI-based weapons and combat systems. The specific defence AI use cases that Russia is currently focusing on include developing unmanned vehicles and systems, improving C4ISR capabilities, advancing battlefield management, conducting cyber operations, conducting influence and intelligence operations, enhancing satellite systems and developing nuclear-capable missiles.

Russia's war in Ukraine has increased the need for domestic high-tech production and brought Russia closer to China. Access to Chinese technologies and know-how will enable Russia to evolve faster in applying AI as compared to relying only on its own capabilities and resources.

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<sup>1</sup> The generic term "attack drones" can also include loitering munition.

## 2.3 Estonia

The overall development of AI in Estonia has been coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, which in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education and Research, unveiled the [Action Plan on Artificial Intelligence for 2024-2026](#) in spring 2024. This builds on the Action Plans implemented in 2019-2021 and 2022-2023. With the government restructuring in 2024, the Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs is now responsible for coordinating the overall digital development of the country, including AI-related activities.

This latest Action Plan promotes the development and deployment of AI across the public and private sector, as well as in education and research. The Action Plan sets forth objectives for the upcoming years, focusing on human-centric and trustworthy implementation of AI applications in Estonia. This should increase the personalisation, user-friendliness, accessibility and governmental efficiency of e-services in Estonia. Additionally, the Action Plan analyses the required changes within the legal framework for AI implementation, the development of an Estonian-based large-language model and the establishment of high-performance computing capabilities. However, the Action Plan does not address AI developments in the defence and security context.

Considering the extensive focus on defence AI by the US and other allies, it is critical for Estonia to develop the corresponding technological competence and human capital. Otherwise, Estonia's ability to cooperate with the NATO Allies will suffer, and so will the country's national security.

Within the MoD-governed institutions, the development of defence AI has so far been led by the Applied Research Department of the Estonian Military Academy, which supports the development of the EDF's military capabilities through scientific research and innovation. The Estonian Cyber Command is actively searching for opportunities for implementing AI, including in the domestically developed battle management system (KOLT). The Tallinn-based NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) conducts project-based research on defence AI. While the Estonian Defence League's Cyber Unit does not actively develop AI capabilities, it facilitates the testing of AI-based and other innovative solutions. The national cyber range CR14 is in the process of developing an AI 'sandbox' to enable the private sector and government institutions to further develop and test AI-based solutions within a secure environment.

More than a dozen companies within the Estonian defence industry develop or implement AI within their products. The University of Tartu hosts the Estonian Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (EXAI) since 2024, which also has the potential to contribute to developing defence AI.

Tomas Jermalavičius of the International Centre for Defence Studies, published a detailed [overview](#) on the current state of AI application within the Estonian defence sector in December 2023. Professor Wolfgang Koch and General (ret) Jörg Vollmer of the Fraunhofer Research Institute in Germany also published an in-depth analysis on the prospects of defence AI application in Estonia. Both studies see great potential in AI to strengthen Estonia's defence capabilities, but outline the need for a systematic, well-considered and coordinated defence AI development process in order to guarantee future success.

While the development of defence AI in Estonia has seen numerous different initiatives until now, this strategy provides a holistic direction for developing defence AI in Estonia by involving and motivating the MoD-governed institutions, the defence industry, as well as higher education and research institutions to plan and execute defence AI in a coordinated manner going forward.

## 3. THE APPLICATION OF AI FOR DEFENCE

### 3.1 Objectives

The primary objective of systematic development and application of defence AI is to increase the MoD-governed institutions' efficiency, doing so in a way that is consistent with (1) the strategic objectives of Estonia, (2) the political and ethical principles of Estonia, and (3) ensures the ability to cooperate with other organisations and/or nations. The application of AI must save time, money or human resources (or all three), enabling a more efficient execution of tasks with existing resources or creating an entirely new capability to achieve the given objectives.

The application of AI across the MoD-governed institutions must lead to an increase in Estonia's defence capabilities. Accordingly, the objectives for implementing AI across the MoD-governed institutions are as follows:

- (1) **Establishing direct military advantages:** Applying AI must increase the speed of engagement and precision strike capabilities through supporting decision-making processes, analysing intelligence data and accelerating the targeting process. This is particularly relevant in cyberspace and air defence, where the speed of defensive and offensive operations often outpace human response rates. Applying AI in autonomous weapons and other systems can increase their destructive power and reduce the threat and burden on humans on the battlefield, including through delegating certain tasks to machines (intelligence collection, logistics, surveillance, etc.).
- (2) **Improving the efficiency of support services and logistics:** A well-functioning logistics system is a key requirement for any military operations. Applying AI must increase the speed and precision of support services, such as through supply chain analysis or improved planning of equipment maintenance. At the same time, the MoD-governed institutions also face the common challenges of public institutions related to data, document and personnel management, all of which can be mitigated through AI.
- (3) **Strengthening the local defence industry:** The defence industry forms a part of Estonia's national defence. The EDF's requirements provide the defence industry an opportunity to develop state-of-the-art AI solutions, which also strengthens the defence industry itself. Strong collaboration between the state and the industry, including joint defence AI development and testing in partnership with the EDF and the EDL is required to meet Estonia's national defence requirements, as well as the defence industry's conditions for growth. Overall, such coherence will contribute to Estonia's economy and export potential.

### 3.2 Methods for Achieving the Objectives

When applying AI in defence, it is imperative that it enables the system as a whole (as opposed to specific functions on their own) to function more efficiently – in other words, that both battlefield activities as well as those leading up to and supporting such activities are executed faster and to a higher standard.

To achieve such an effect, developing a conceptual approach is required, which should be the first step towards the systematic implementation of AI across the MoD-governed institutions. In other words, decisions on the development and use of specific AI applications require a clear, cross-domain understanding of how the

EDF's battlefield capabilities will improve and how all other MOD-governed institutions will better support the EDF through the application of AI.

Achieving the required conceptual comprehension and the readiness for a systematic application of AI assumes conducting a number of foundational activities, which form the basis of this strategy's implementation plan. There are five broad categories of required activities:

- (1) **Establishing a unit responsible for the digital and technological development of the EDF:** To establish the required conceptual approach for defence AI, the EDF will consider appointing a Chief Innovation Officer and/or a Chief Digitalisation Officer. These individuals will have the competence, mandate and an allocated budget to holistically direct and prioritise technological developments, including AI, within the EDF and the MoD-governed institutions, and to assemble a designated unit to execute this vision. Going forward, this unit will be responsible for compiling a detailed AI implementation plan that will include establishing AI risk thresholds, indicators and budget requirements. This unit will also systematically assess the applicability of dual-use commercial technologies for the execution of specific tasks.
- (2) **Establishing a digital information infrastructure for the EDF:** The primary technological prerequisite for systematic development and application of AI is designing and developing a digital infrastructure for the EDF, capable of accommodating AI solutions. Such an infrastructure will enable and support data exchange across different systems and units. Further, the MoD will establish data concepts and standards along with data mapping and data ownership allocation to ensure interoperability between the MoD-governed institutions as well as between Estonia and its NATO Allies. It is also important to focus on long-term data collection for training the necessary models and identifying key trends.
- (3) **Cultivating advanced technological awareness and AI skills within the EDF:** AI-expertise across the MoD-governed institutions is currently low, and there are only a few experts with the relevant education and experience. To improve this, the MoD must invest in the domain-specific digital and technological awareness, both through updating the theoretical and practical training at the Estonian Military Academy, and other higher education institutions. Master and doctoral level programs focused on defence AI must also be established. Considering the ever-increasing demand across various sectors for technology specialist and the fact that the Estonian education system does currently not prepare such specialists in sufficient numbers, the MoD-governed institutions must develop a close relationship with the relevant civil structures focused on AI to optimise the use of relevant domain specific competence.
- (4) **Collaborating with civilian agencies to support the development of defence AI:** Defence AI developments must be as closely aligned as possible with the objectives of other national AI development goals to enable the pooling and sharing of resources and knowledge. This requires establishing necessary collaborative networks with the private sector and higher education and research institutions. However, ensuring the next generation of technically literate youth starts at the primary and secondary education level. It is therefore imperative to collaborate with the Ministry of Education and Research to increase the interest of young people in STEM subjects. In addition, the MoD must search for ways to modernise legislation to accelerate the defence industry's development and to enable the use of AI in classified systems, including for operational needs.

- (5) **Participating in international networks and ensuring interoperability with Allies:** Considering Estonia's limited resources and know-how, it is vital to monitor international developments in defence AI and participate in relevant networks. It is required to establish the objectives and priorities for Estonia's participation in different NATO working groups and the European Defence Fund projects, as well as for hosting the NATO CCDCOE and the NATO DIANA Regional Hub. Information and know-how gathered through these networks will inform the best approach for optimising the use of defence AI in Estonia. The spearhead of international defence AI collaboration will be directed towards the Nordics and Baltics, the UK, and the US in order to ensure interoperability of Estonia's AI systems with its closest allies.

### **3.3 Resources for Achieving the Objectives**

Resources to fulfill the Strategy's objectives and to conduct the activities required to achieve them will be provided in the next National Defence Development Plan (2026-2035), which, in turn, will be allocated through the MoD's development plan. Projects focusing on defence AI will be given development priority to ensure the required advancement of the EDF's capabilities. 30-50% of the annual R&D budget of the National Defence Development Plan will be allocated for developing defence AI. Funding for testing and developing defence AI applications, conducted based on clearly defined priority areas, will be increased.

### **3.4 Ethical and Legal Principles and Constraints for Developing and Deploying Defence AI**

When fulfilling its objectives related to defence AI, it is important that Estonia develops and applies AI within the international legal framework, the principles agreed with its allies, and the common interpretations of other applicable requirements.

As a NATO member, Estonia is committed to the six principles of responsible use, adopted as part of the Alliance's AI Strategy in 2021: lawfulness, responsibility and accountability, explainability and traceability, reliability, governability and bias mitigation.

Like most other NATO members, Estonia supports the US-led Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy. The use of AI in warfare rightly raises fears that Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) may employ lethal force in a manner contrary to international humanitarian law. LAWS is a type of technology that makes critical decisions (for example, target selection and engagement) based on pre-programmed criteria and constraints, i.e. at least in part without simultaneous human intervention. However, there is currently a lack of consensus on the precise definition of LAWS.

Estonia presented its position on LAWS to the UN's Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) in 2022. The most notable aspects of Estonia's position are:

- (1) International humanitarian law is fully applicable in the use of new and emerging technologies, including LAWS.
- (2) The focus of LAWS discourse must not be on all types of autonomous systems and functions but instead on the autonomous decision-making functions of targeting and engagement.
- (3) Human control over the decisions made by LAWS must be maintained at a level that ensures the use of LAWS in accordance with international law.
- (4) Ultimately, a state and/or an individual is responsible for violations of international law, and it must remain possible to attribute decisions made by LAWS to a state and/or an individual.
- (5) In accordance with Article 36 of Protocol 1 of the Geneva Convention, a weapons analysis must be conducted before a new weapon (system) is introduced.

In May 2023, the US presented to the GGE a paper proposing that while the ultimate responsibility in the use of LAWS remains with the human, the final decision to engage a target does not always need to be made by the individual, as long as all other criteria for responsible development and the use of a weapons system are met. In general, Estonia is supportive of the US proposal, but considers it vital that the role of humans in the decision-making processes is established in a way that the final decision on the use of lethal force is made by the human (through kill switch solutions, presets, or other solutions).

The Estonian Defence and Aerospace Industry Association has confirmed that Estonian defence companies follow international law developments and act in accordance with international law throughout R&D as well as product development. The industry also follows the European Defence Fund's [Regulation](#), which states that the European Defence Fund does not support the development of LAWS that do not have actual human control over the selection of targets and the decision to attack. However, from the perspective of advancing the Estonian defence industry, it is vital that international regulations and standards will not begin to hinder product development through restrictive bureaucracy, but rather support innovation.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The Implementation Plan is a separate document that focuses on conducting the five main categories of activities outlined above, which will ensure the readiness for systematic application of AI across the MoD-governed institutions. The first Implementation Plan accompanying this Strategy identifies the primary priority activities, whereas the new unit responsible for the digital and technological development of the EDF will develop a more detailed implementation plan. The Implementation Plan is not a public document.