KINIT

2024 Report

Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies
Bottova 7939/2A, 811 09 Bratislava – Staré Mesto, Slovakia
Entity reg. no.: 53290046, Contact: info@kinit.sk

JOIN US

Why partner with KInIT?

- Help Slovakia to concentrate and circulate talents
- Discover solutions for your problems using Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Get a new perspective on your R&D&I
- Collaborate in excellent research
- Improve knowledge of your employees on selected topics of AI

We also offer several opportunities

- for collaboration with innovative companies and academic institutions,
- to match basic and applied research with the needs of the intelligent technology industry,
- with particular focus in artificial intelligence and several domains of computer science with overreach into other disciplines.

Get in touch!

Help us to concentrate talents in Slovakia, achieve excellent basic and applied research based on responsibility, ethics and economic sustainability.

partnerships@kinit.sk

Dear Partners and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to present the results of our efforts, activities and successes during the 2024 year. Establishing a recognized research institute in the Central European Region is a fascinating adventure. Each year brings us new challenges, as we grow and become more recognized in Slovakia and in the wider European region.

In 2024 we have expanded all our activities. There are two core drivers for the growth - success in the European grants, and the industry research collaborations. Private sector support for basic research through donations is essential. Last year was the year of implementation of the grants awarded and the year of preparation of the Teaming for excellence grant. We have started full service of the European Digital Innovation Hub Hopero with more than 100 companies supported.

The major pillar for the vision of an excellent research institute is international research cooperation. Thanks to the European grants, we have extended our international research network to 30 countries. We have also increased our visibility in premier scientific forums, including esteemed A* ranked conferences and journals.

International recognition also helped in our effort to scale the institute. I am proud that we have not only advanced to the 2nd stage of the highly competitive Horizon Europe Teaming for Excellence scheme, but were successful in the 2nd stage. This not only acknowledges our vision for the KInIT to be inline with the wider EU strategy, but also helped in setting the vision of KInIT development in 10+ years.

We continued our media appearance last year. Our researchers were mentioned 90+ times in the media. We continued in co-organizing Better_AI meetups, which have grown in popularity.

In the name of the KInIT, I would like to personally thank our partners, donors, and supporters. We are honoured by the Slovak Academy of Sciences joining KInIT as an associated member. In 2024, we were supported by 16 private companies contributing to our activities in basic research, with the major share coming from our partners ESET, Tatra banka, Innovatrics, Sesame and Softec. Thanks to the donations we are able to deliver excellent research and increase our impact on society (nurturing young talents or taking part in AI discourse in society).

Maria Bielikova, *Director General*

People and Culture

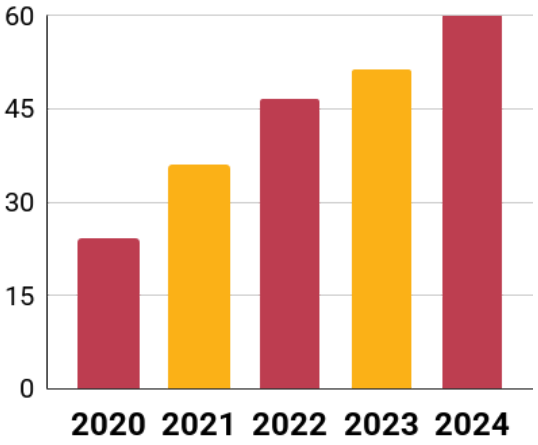
In 2024, we continued to strengthen our commitment to fostering a thriving and engaging work environment. Our focus remained on creating new opportunities for interns, providing them with valuable experiences and insights into cutting-edge AI research. By doing so, we not only supported the next generation of researchers but also enriched our own team with fresh perspectives and innovative ideas.

> **“By fostering collaboration and a strong sense of belonging, we have strengthened the core of our institute.”**

Diana Lokere

Beyond research excellence, we prioritized continuous improvement in operational excellence. Streamlining our processes and optimizing workflows allowed us to work more effectively and create a sustainable foundation for future growth. Our dedication to efficiency ensures that our researchers and employees can focus on meaningful, high-impact work.

One of our greatest achievements this year has been our ongoing success in shaping and nurturing our company culture. We have cultivated an environment where employees feel engaged, valued, and motivated to contribute to our shared mission. By fostering collaboration and a strong sense of belonging, we have strengthened the core of our institute and set the stage for even greater achievements in the years to come.



As we move forward, we remain dedicated to not only advancing AI research but also creating an institution where people thrive, grow, and drive meaningful change.

KInIT's personnel capacity increased in 2024. At the end of 2024, the personnel capacity was 36,7 FTE researchers and engineers, 10 doctoral students, 13 FTE operations, 2,8 FTE R&D management. In addition in December 2024 we hosted 21 interns and collaborated with 5 volunteers.

2024 Results

The 2024 year represents a milestone for the institute. Despite continuing staff increase in researchers, engineers and experts, increasing our excellent research outputs and network we are specifically proud on:

- awarding of Teaming of Excellence Horizon Europe project - IorAI - aiming at upgrading KInIT in all aspects of its activities;
- awarding of 11 projects from Slovak Recovery and Resilience plan - which helps us to strengthen research collaboration with several Slovak institutions and connect with Slovak diaspora;
- submission of first two dissertation theses of our PhD students;
- strengthening the industry collaboration to 48 proofs of concept/expert consultations (primarily via the Hopero - European Digital Innovation Hub).

I. Excellent and responsible research

The year 2024 was a special year for the institute from the research excellence perspective. We have followed our approach for the research outputs dissemination - focus on top tier venues - and we were successful. Just a few examples: 3 papers at ACL, 1 paper at EMNLP and 3 at Findings EMNLP, one paper in ACM Computing Surveys and one at AAAI. We also see the benefits of our multidisciplinary approach, specifically inherently including the Ethics and Human values in Technology team in our research, for instance: paper in Telematics and Informatics.

As transforming to a larger institution, in 2024 our staff has implemented in total 13 international projects: seven in Horizon Europe scheme, two in Digital Europe, one in EMIF, two in Interreg and one in Visegrad Fund. We also started seven new projects funded by the Slovak Recovery and Resilience plan.

The 2024 year was a game changer from the new grants acquisition perspective. As a 2 year effort (and 2 stage schema), we were finally successful in the Horizon Europe Teaming for Excellence call. This project will in the 6 year perspective boost the institute to an internationally renowned Center of Excellence. On this journey we will take advantage of 3 advanced partners: German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), The Centre for Research & Technology, Hellas (CERTH), and Adapt Center, Trinity College Dublin.

Last year was a milestone also from our doctoral program perspective. First 2 theses have been submitted and will be defended in a short time. PhD program at KInIT (together with the Brno University of Technology) offers a unique opportunity to collaborate with internationally renowned researchers and to work on interesting research or industry projects. We are especially proud that we were able to expand the program with new topics and we can offer PhD positions also in Law and Digital Technologies (together with the Palacky University in Olomouc).

“We are honoured by the Slovak Academy of Sciences joining KInIT as an associated member.

From the national perspective, we have strengthened our activities in networking the Slovak Natural Language community. Together with ongoing projects, we have organised NLP Summer school, and roundtables to connect industry professionals interested in NLP topics.

We value our existing research collaborations and always seek to connect and collaborate with new partners. In research projects involving KInIT we have 109 partners from 27 countries. Moreover, we have collaborated with 12 research groups from Slovak universities and Slovak Academy of Sciences.

“The Teaming for Excellence grant proposal was approved.”

Michal Kompan

We have started four new international grants

Continuing our participation in the international competitive research funding primarily in Horizon Europe and Interreg, in 2024 we started four projects. The topics of these projects are in line with the institute's long-term strategy focusing on fact-checking, disinformation fighting, ethical AI, and green energy optimization. Moreover, taking advantage of the Slovak Recovery and Resilience plan, we applied and received several so-called "Matching grants" to complement and further elaborate our work in several Horizon Europe projects. AI-Auditology is our flagship project from the Recovery and Resilience plan aiming at not only top-level research, but also developing tools with high positive societal impact. Last but not least, we must mention again the Teaming for Excellence scheme grant, which will in the upcoming six years transform the institute and help us to bring it on the map of European Centres of Excellence (the project will start in March 2025).

> **As a research institute, we recognize that our people are our greatest asset.**

New grants at a glance:

CEDMO 2.0

Central European Digital Media Observatory

Aims to use the accumulated knowledge and experience of its predecessor to enhance fact-checking capabilities, strengthen detection and analysis of disinformation, and foster greater public awareness through targeted media literacy campaigns. By closely monitoring national and EU policies, the project seeks to cultivate an information landscape resilient to the manipulative tactics of malicious actors.

ALFIE

Enhancing Ethical AI Through Dialogue and Innovation

Project combines an EthiTech Dialogue Hub (ETD-Hub) with an advanced AutoML platform and interaction in natural language to connect ethical discourse and practical AI implementation. The goal is to make AI development more accessible while encouraging ethical compliance and transparency. ALFIE aims to support responsible AI practices that can be used by a wider range of users and stakeholders.

DanubeEnergy

Developing a transnational project on building green heat supply systems

It brings together partners to cooperate on the development of a project focused on creating an integrated heating system. It will combine renewable energy with existing heat supply infrastructure and optimise their efficient operation. The idea is to encompass both central heating systems and renewable energy sources and to operate the combined system by respecting the specific heating requirements of buildings.

V4 Grid

The Visegrad group for Vehicle to X

V4Grid project is pioneering a new era in sustainable energy solutions by harnessing the power of electric vehicles (EVs) through Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) services powered by AI methods. Collaborating across Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, the project aims to transform EVs into dynamic components of the region's energy infrastructure.

FraudNet

Social Media AI Algorithms Auditing

The goal is to fundamentally change the oversight of social media AI algorithms, like recommender systems, and their tendencies to spread harmful content. The main idea is a novel paradigm of model-based algorithmic auditing. With the new methods and supporting software platform built, the public will receive a powerful watchdog tool, fully in line with European values.

AI-Auditology

Embedded Finance Market with built-in FraudNet security service

Payout's "Embedded Finance Market" will be revolutionizing digital payments for SMEs, particularly those in e- commerce, services, and entertainment, demanding enhanced care and compliance. By integrating third-party financial services and introducing "FraudNet", Payout will offer comprehensive financial tools and advanced security against fraud.

HERMES

Trustworthy Multi-Objective and Multi-Stakeholder Recommenders

Project aims at proposing recommender system methods for Trustworthy Multi-objective and multi-stakeholder environments. It will particularly focus on the domains of e-commerce and social networks, as they share the same three elements – so-called stakeholders' groups: recommender system provider, recommended content consumers, and recommended content producers.

In 2024 we have further followed the strategic research topic of the institute focusing on researching AI methods and models in four domains, namely green and secure environment, web and social media, natural language processing, and ethics and human values in technology.

Dissemination of scientific knowledge

Hand in hand with the ongoing research projects, the network and the collaboration with international research partners has strengthened. Thanks to this concentration of talent and creativity, a total of 25 scientific papers were accepted in 2024, from which more than 40% were co-authored with international partners.

Following our vision and research strategy, we aim at disseminating our research results at top international venues. In 2024 this commitment resulted in 5 papers at rank A*, 5 papers at rank A , and 3 journal papers at rank Q1 (according to the CORE ranking).

Reflecting our commitment to Open Science, we proudly made all papers publicly accessible. This transparent approach aligns with our dedication to sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration within the scientific community and the society.

Selected publications at a glance

A Survey on Stability of Learning with Limited Labelled Data and its Sensitivity to the Effects of Randomness

This survey reviews the impact of uncontrolled randomness on the stability of models trained with limited labelled data, such as through prompting, in-context learning, fine-tuning, meta-learning, or few-shot learning. The study highlights that this randomness causes significant variability in results, which can mislead perceptions of research progress. The survey includes 415 papers addressing the effects of randomness, categorized into four main tasks: investigation/evaluation, determination, mitigation, and benchmarking/comparison/reporting. It also identifies seven challenges and open problems, offering directions for future research. The goal is to emphasize the importance of this area and reveal impactful research directions. (full paper)

Disinformation Capabilities of Large Language Models

This paper examines the risks associated with large language models (LLMs) generating disinformation. It explores the potential impact of LLMs flooding the information space with false content, which could have severe consequences for democratic societies. The study assesses 10 LLMs using 20 disinformation narratives to evaluate their ability to produce false news articles, their agreement with disinformation, and their generation of safety warnings. The study also evaluates detection models' effectiveness in identifying LLM-generated disinformation. The findings suggest that LLMs can create convincing news articles that align with harmful disinformation narratives. (full paper)

Beyond privacy and security: Exploring ethical issues of smart metering and non-intrusive load monitoring

This paper investigates how AI can contribute to efficient and clean energy management. It focuses on non-intrusive load monitoring (NILM) and raises ethical issues. Through literature review and qualitative workshops with an electricity supplier, the study identifies 19 ethical and societal concerns, such as privacy, security, algorithmic bias, and human autonomy. These issues are analyzed against the seven core requirements for trustworthy AI as defined by the Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI. The study emphasizes the importance of addressing these ethical challenges to ensure AI systems are truly trustworthy. (full paper)

On Sensitivity of Learning with Limited Labelled Data to the Effects of Randomness: Impact of Interactions and Systematic Choices

This paper addresses the sensitivity of learning models with limited labelled data to uncontrolled randomness factors, like sample choice or order. It proposes a method to systematically investigate these factors while considering their interactions. By mitigating other effects, the method observes performance variations across multiple runs. The study finds that ignoring randomness factor interactions can lead to inconsistent results and incorrect attributions. It also reveals that the effects of randomness factors, particularly sample order, depend on systematic choices like class number, samples per class, or prompt format, which were not previously explored. (full paper)

Cross-Validated Off-Policy Evaluation

This paper explores estimator selection and hyper-parameter tuning in off-policy evaluation, challenging the belief that cross-validation isn't feasible for this purpose. It demonstrates how cross-validation can be applied to off-policy evaluation, providing practical guidance beyond theoretical approaches. The authors empirically evaluate their method, showing its effectiveness across various use cases. (full paper)

Effects of diversity incentives on sample diversity and downstream model performance in LLM-based text augmentation

This study explores the use of generative large language models (LLMs) in data augmentation, specifically examining how different text diversity incentive methods impact the quality of paraphrased data and downstream models. The methods tested include taboo words, hints from previous outlier solutions, and chaining on previous outlier solutions. These methods were applied across 5 LLMs, 6 datasets, and 2 downstream models. Results indicate that while taboo words increased lexical diversity the most, hints led to the highest downstream model performance. (full paper)

A Ship of Theseus: Curious Cases of Paraphrasing in LLM-Generated Texts

This research explores the philosophical question of authorship in the context of text manipulation and linguistic transformation, akin to the Ship of Theseus paradox. It investigates whether a text retains its original authorship after multiple paraphrasing iterations by Large Language Models (LLMs). The study examines the impact of LLMs on the original author's style and considers if authorship should be attributed to the human author or the AI tool. The findings reveal that text classification models' performance decreases with

successive paraphrasing iterations, correlating with the deviation from the original author's style, prompting a reevaluation of the concept of authorship. (full paper)

Community support

Our employees are committed to support the community and contribute to the global research area by actively participating as steering, program, or organising committee members at esteemed conferences. In 2024 we were active in established venues such as The Web Conf, UMAP, ECIR, SIGIR, RecSys, ECAI, SMAP, ETRA or SemEval.

Furthermore, KInIT's researchers have served as reviewers for distinguished international journals, such as User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction, Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence, Information Processing & Management, New Review of Hypermedia and Multimedia, or Expert systems.

II. Boosting innovation in industry through excellent science

As an independent research institute KInIT has an ambition to form a bridge between academia and industry. In order to interconnect these two worlds, we need to understand both of them. The first requirement is to conduct excellent research, which can subsequently be transferred into practice. Equally important is to become familiar with the problems tackled by industry. These are two basic starting points of our work. For our institute research-industry partnerships are crucial to dig deeper into our expertise, encouraging Slovak innovations and also gaining funding opportunities.

Our cooperation with companies (and state administration) takes place in several forms:

- We have some long-term collaborations, which besides applied research includes also the preparation of joint European projects (Sféra, ZSE).
- We also have some short-term commercial projects.
- Another schema is industry-based PhD study (Eset, Softec).

In 2024 we started to implement the EDIH project Hopero, after overcomming bureaucratic obstacles. While the bureaucracy still presents challenges, we provide services according to the original commitment with the European Commission and bring the innovative potential of AI to Slovak SMEs. Hopero is built on the "Test before invest" concept meaning providing proofs of concept, expert consultations or AI workshops to transfer the knowledge. We succeeded in introducing AI solutions to several companies for example Greenlogy, GOSPACE, Energy Trading, Predictive Data Science. We helped in the areas where AI was not used before, or where

knowledge to design appropriate methods was missing. The usefulness of the project is evidenced by the fact that after finishing the first collaborations the companies came up with another topic they wanted to solve with us. This project brought a new perspective into our knowledge transfer activities.

We were engaged in 40 proofs of concept/expert consultations and provided training on various AI topics to 105 companies under Hopero project.

Lucia Kotuľáková

AI Awards was launched in 2024 in partnership with European Digital Innovation Hub Hopero and the Committee on Ethics and Regulation of Artificial Intelligence established by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. AI Awards recognizes organisations and their AI teams that develop and deploy their AI systems in a responsible manner, taking into account the principles of trustworthy and human-centric AI. The laureate of the AI Awards 2024 was the company AI:Dental, the judging panel also awarded a special prize to TrollWall.

AI Awards initiative started to draw attention to the importance of trustworthy and human-centred artificial intelligence with connection to ethical principles.

AI mapa Slovenska 2024 initiative started with the goal to map companies and organizations active in the field of AI in Slovakia, then evaluate their readiness for the use of artificial intelligence.

The Teaming of Excellence Horizon Europe project (lorAI) will bring great possibilities to enhance the bridge between academia and industry in coming years.

Hopero selected success stories

Elv.AI

The experts from KInIT organized a series of workshops during which they conducted an evaluation of the Elv.ai system based on ethical criteria. Elv.ai is an AI system designed for moderating online content. Before our assessment, Elv.ai proactively identified several potential ethical concerns that its AI system might arise. Together, we framed these concerns and worked on finding solutions with a broader perspective, considering the context of trustworthy artificial intelligence as defined by the Ethical Guidelines for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (EGTAI) and Assessment List for Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence (ALTAI).

Gospace Labs

Company developing complex solutions designed for water monitoring. We aimed to discover relations, hidden patterns and changes caused by human activities, leading to pollution of aquifers. By identifying trends and anomalies in water quality and water level data, we can develop strategies to predict flash floods, identify pollution sources, ensure safe drinking water, and support sustainable climatic practices. This comprehensive analysis can also inform policy decisions, promote public awareness, and guide conservation efforts to protect water resources against the impacts of pollution, climate change, and overuse.

Energy Trading Company

Company participates in major power exchanges in the region and actively manages the dispatch of physical electricity in power networks.The goal of the project was to support decision making by predicting clearing prices and revealing characteristics of supply curves. In the first phase, we used weather forecasts and predictions of production capacities to predict day-ahead market clearing prices. We applied statistical methods and the latest machine learning techniques, evaluating our approaches on real market data.

Xolution

Our Ethics team had the opportunity to facilitate a series of workshops on evaluation of the X-bot system based on ethical principles. X-bot is a sophisticated AI system designed for comprehensive process automation - ranging from simple tasks to the most complex activities, including asynchronous operations and unstructured data processing. In relation to the ethical assessment, Xolution demonstrated a strong commitment to identifying and mitigating the ethical and societal risks of its system and its impact on the stakeholders.

Greenology

Main objective of the company is to supply electric power generated exclusively from alternative resources and preferably by Slovak producers.The aim of our collaboration was to create a predictive model for one day ahead solar panels energy supply to the grid as recorded by smart meters. We tested various machine learning approaches and brought improvements for models to better fit the addressed task. As a prediction model we used neural networks, extending the state-of-the-art architecture by new layers to better adapt to the addressed problem.

III. Talent Concentration and Circulation

Continuing our steadfast commitment to excellence research and bridging academia with business, our institute remains dedicated to advancing our PhD program, providing unparalleled opportunities for the growth and development leading to more aspiring researchers.

In alignment with our mission to foster innovation and cultivate talent, we also continue to offer engaging internships aimed at attracting young minds and supporting their future careers. Through these internships, we not only contribute to ongoing research endeavours but also nurture a passion for exploration and discovery, equipping interns with invaluable skills and experiences. Last year 5 new talents joined our team in intern positions.

As we look ahead to the future, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting talent circulation and empowering researchers at every stage of their careers. Therefore, we keep on strengthening our team with hiring international colleagues and interns.

We also set up an ecosystem to empower and attract seasoned senior researchers by applying to interesting international grants.

Brand, Media and Visibility

We continue to share our scientific work with the broader community, further establishing KInIT's reputation as a trusted voice in AI. Over the past year, we continued to gain significant visibility in major Slovak media outlets and actively participated in conferences and events. Our team engaged in numerous interviews, presentations, and panel discussions, reinforcing this progress. The most prominent topics included large language models, AI regulation and the quality of information in digital spaces. Through these engagements we shared our expertise and strengthened KInIT's role as a leader in AI.

In 2024, KInIT researchers were featured in the media 90+ times, spanning interviews, podcasts, and television appearances. We focused on high quality engagements, ensuring our insights reached the right audiences and made a significant impact on AI discussions.

> **We participated in prominent events such as Europe Day and European Researchers' Night, which attracted thousands of attendees.**

We were honored to participate in key events such as European Researchers' Night, where we engaged with thousands of attendees. These large-scale events provided a platform to present our research to diverse audiences and contribute to meaningful discussions on AI's societal impact.

KInIT actively contributed to public discourse on AI regulation and other critical issues. Our involvement included articulating our position on the EU's Artificial Intelligence Act, reflecting

our dedication to shaping the ethical and legal frameworks of emerging technologies responsibly.

We also continued our collaboration with Innovatrics and other partners to host Better_AI_meetups, creating a valuable space for AI professionals to exchange insights, share experiences, and network.

Our commitment to engage with the public remained strong in 2024. This year, we took a more strategic approach to social media, refining our communication style to better suit each platform. We developed a distinct tone of voice for each channel, embraced more authentic formats like video content, and shifted our focus to showcasing people behind our research and their contributions. Additionally, our monthly newsletter increased to an impressive average open rate of 59% proving its role as a key communication channel for our community.

In 2024, the prestigious ESET Science Award was presented to our founder, Mária Bieliková, who was recognized in the main category of Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia. She was recognized for her international contribution to artificial intelligence and for founding the independent Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies.

These achievements highlight our commitment to building meaningful connections, advocating for responsible AI development and increasing the accessibility of scientific knowledge to diverse audiences.

Finances

KInIT's funding is built up along three main sources:

(i) basic funding, which mainly support application driven basic research, people development and partially also operations, currently it consists mainly of donations,

(ii) grants, which support KInIT's core activities including interdisciplinary and cross-sectorial research and international networking, and
(iii) industrial research collaborations, which focus mainly on applied research and transfer aimed at innovations.

The most substantial part of KInIT costs in 2024 was personnel expenses (83.6%). Part of the operational costs were financed by services provided at discount or pro bono, i.e., non-financial contributions (e.g., office spaces, leadership training, communication support, AI computing infrastructure).

On the income side, the share of basic funding continued its decrease compared to previous years, while the share of the income from grants significantly increased. As the institute grew on the year-on-year comparison, the share of donations representing basic funding dropped to 40.5% in 2024. The following table shows the share of revenue according to the three main sources of funding, taking into account only financial contributions.

Income	2021	2022	2023	2024
Basic Funding	91.6%	75.8%	49.2%	40.5%
Research Grants	0.6%	11.8%	33.8%	41.2%
Industry Research	7.8%	12.4%	17%	18.3%

In 2024 KInIT maintained the collaboration with industry at 18.3% including test-before-invest services in Hopero. In absolute numbers the income rose by 35% year-on-year. In 2024 we were involved in 20+ international and national grants. This resulted in a 41.2% share of income in 2024 and represents a year-on-year increase of 102% in absolute numbers.

In 2025, we expect this trend to continue and to decrease the share of basic funding to 30% while increasing the overall budget of KInIT.

In the future, it is crucial to keep the current donations as well as to further increase the inco- me from other sources, thus balancing the propor- tion between the three main sources of funding – donations, grants and industry collaborations.

In the future, it is crucial to keep the current donations as well as to further increase the income from other sources, thus balancing the proportion between the three main sources of funding – donations, grants and industry collaborations.

Concluding remarks

Following the boom of AI in 2023, the last year we were significantly influenced by the advancements in generative AI. First of all, we reflected unprecedented interest from the general public. Our employees shined in 90+ media outputs communicating and explaining not only the AI phenomenon, but most importantly our research results to the general public. Secondly, the AI boom also stimulated the Slovak industry. Thanks to the Hopero – European Digital Innovation Hub coordinated by KInIT, we were able to deliver 49 test-before-invest consultations (incl. prototypes and proof of concepts).

In 2024, KInIT achieved significant milestones in research excellence and collaboration. Our researchers presented notable papers at premier conferences and journals like ACL, EMNLP, ACM Computing Surveys, AAAI, or Telematics and Informatics, highlighting our multidisciplinary approach. We have been successfully implementing 13 international projects across various schemes and initiated 7 new projects funded by the Slovak Recovery and Resilience plan.

The ground-breaking success of 2024 is the acquisition of the Horizon Europe Teaming for Excellence grant. Here we aim to become an internationally renowned Center of Excellence in partnership with the project's advanced partners: DFKI, CERTH, and Adapt Center, Trinity College Dublin. This project will also stimulate our research, focusing on low resource AI, which represents a strategic topic for Slovakia and the region.

From the sustainability point of view, 2024 was again a small step towards our long-term objectives. We were able to decrease our basic funding for four consecutive years and increase the grant and industry funding.

Thanks to the acquired projects and initiatives as slovaks.ai, AI Awards, Better_AI_meetup, we also brought societal impact. As an example, in 2024 we nurtured 42 early-stage researchers (mostly bachelor and master students); our researchers participated in drawing-up the General-Purpose AI Code of Practice, or under the AI-Auditology are developing a platform for black-box auditing of large AI systems. Hand in hand with our strategic research domains, KInIT daily proves its relevance and importance in the European Research Area. We are thankful for all the support from our donors, founders and all supporters.