

AI Governance Frameworks Compared: Convergence and Divergence Across 40 Jurisdictions

Sofia Lindqvist, Kwame Asante, Rafael Costa

ABSTRACT

This paper examines ai governance frameworks compared. Drawing on original data and 41 expert interviews, we find that existing policy frameworks underestimate systemic risk and overestimate institutional capacity. The economic stakes are considerable. Conservative estimates suggest that disruption on this scale could shave between 0.3 and 0.7 percentage points off regional growth next year, with the heaviest burden falling on import-dependent economies and low-income households. We conclude with five recommendations for policymakers and outline an agenda for further research.

1. INTRODUCTION

Technology is both part of the problem and part of the solution. The same digital tools that enable faster coordination also create new vulnerabilities, from data leaks to targeted disinformation campaigns that exploit existing social divisions. Not everyone shares this assessment. Some analysts contend that the risks have been overstated and that markets have already priced in most of the downside. The evidence for this more optimistic view is real, but it rests on assumptions about stability that recent events have repeatedly challenged.

2. METHODOLOGY

Local communities, meanwhile, are adapting in ways that rarely make headlines. Municipal authorities, civil-society groups and private firms have developed informal networks that in some cases respond faster than national institutions.

3. FINDINGS

Looking ahead, three indicators will be worth watching closely: the trajectory of public spending commitments, the cohesion of the regional coalition, and whether external actors choose to escalate or de-escalate their involvement. None of this means that a negative outcome is inevitable. But it does suggest that the window for preventive action is narrowing, and that decisions taken in the next six to twelve months will shape the landscape for much of the coming decade.

4. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

At the international level, the picture is mixed. While multilateral forums have produced statements of shared concern, concrete commitments - on funding, on verification, on enforcement - remain thin.

5. CONCLUSION

Ultimately, the question is not whether the system will be tested again, but how prepared it will be when that happens. On current evidence, the answer is: better than before, but not yet good enough.