

AI Readiness Institutes: how small states can prepare for fast AI progress

Jason Hoelscher-Obermaier · Swiss AI Safety Days · 8 November 2026

Most small European states have no AI Security Institute

- Same AI disruption as everyone else
- None of the (limited) protection an AISI provides



Security and access are linked

- June 2026: a US directive citing national security cut off all access to Anthropic's top models
- It came just as a capability jump raised cyber risks, when defenders most needed frontier models

AI Readiness Institutes (AIRIs): one institute for AI security and frontier AI capacity

- Cover AI security: capabilities and risks of frontier models, like an AISI
- Build frontier AI capacity: access to top models and compute, exposure if access changes, preparing for very fast progress
- One roof: same expertise and contacts, and the problems arrive together

More tractable than it sounds

- Small team, built on existing institutes
- Bottlenecks: people, a lasting home in government, trust
- Austria: working on establishing one, and on making the idea replicable

Help build one

- Working on something similar in your country?
- Know people who should be part of this (cyber, evaluations, AISI experience)?
- talks.jasho.fyi/zurich26

