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Information technology - Artificial intelligence (AI) - Transparency taxonomy of AI systems (ISO/IEC 12792:2025)

EESTI STANDARDIMIS- JA AKREDITEERIMISKESKUS
ESTONIAN CENTRE FOR STANDARDISATION AND ACCREDITATION

EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

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ICS 01.040.35, 35.020

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NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN ISO/IEC 12792

November 2025

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English version

Information technology - Artificial intelligence (AI) - Transparency taxonomy of AI systems (ISO/IEC 12792:2025)

Technologies de l'information - Intelligence artificielle (IA) - Taxonomie pour la transparence des systèmes d'IA (ISO/IEC 12792:2025)

Informationstechnologie - Künstliche Intelligenz - Transparenz-Taxonomie von KI-Systemen (ISO/IEC 12792:2025)

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European foreword

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Contents

Page

Foreword ..... **v**
Introduction ..... **vi**
1 Scope **1**
2 Normative references **1**
3 Terms and definitions **1**
4 Symbols and abbreviated terms **4**
5 Overview **4**
5.1 General 4
5.2 Organization and usage of the taxonomy 4
5.3 Constraints on transparency disclosures 5
5.4 Concept of transparency 6
6 Stakeholders' needs and transparency objectives **7**
6.1 General 7
6.2 Transparency objectives and goals 8
6.3 Selected stakeholder roles in transparency 9
7 Context-level taxonomy **11**
7.1 General 11
7.2 Societal context 11
7.2.1 General 11
7.2.2 Labour practices 14
7.2.3 Consumer needs 15
7.3 Environmental context 16
7.3.1 General 16
7.3.2 Particular environmental disclosures 17
7.3.3 Organizational disclosures 18
8 System-level taxonomy **19**
8.1 General 19
8.2 Basic information 19
8.3 Organizational processes 20
8.3.1 General 20
8.3.2 Governance 20
8.3.3 Management system 21
8.3.4 Risk management 21
8.3.5 Quality management 21
8.4 Applicability 21
8.4.1 General 21
8.4.2 Intended purposes 22
8.4.3 Capabilities 22
8.4.4 Functional limitations 22
8.4.5 Recommended uses 22
8.4.6 Precluded uses 22
8.5 Overview of technical characteristics 22
8.5.1 General 22
8.5.2 Expected inputs and outputs 23
8.5.3 Production data 23
8.5.4 Logging and storing 23
8.5.5 System decomposition 23
8.5.6 Application programming interface 24
8.5.7 Human factors 24
8.5.8 Deployment methods 24
8.5.9 Configuration management 24
8.6 Access to internal elements 25

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8.7 Quality and performance ... 26
8.7.1 General ... 26
8.7.2 Verification and validation processes ... 26
8.7.3 Runtime measurements ... 26
8.7.4 Comparison with alternative systems ... 27

9 Model-level taxonomy ... 27
9.1 General ... 27
9.2 Basic information ... 27
9.3 Usage and model interplay ... 28
9.3.1 Processing performed by the model ... 28
9.3.2 Dependence on other models ... 28
9.3.3 Coherence with AI system's intended purposes ... 28
9.4 Technical characteristics ... 28
9.4.1 Type of technology used ... 28
9.4.2 Features extracted from input data ... 28
9.4.3 Algorithm used for processing ... 28
9.4.4 Procedure for building the model ... 28
9.4.5 Hyperparameters ... 29
9.4.6 Input and output formats ... 30
9.4.7 Compute hardware ... 30
9.4.8 Computational costs ... 31
9.4.9 Models in evolutive systems ... 31
9.5 Data used ... 31
9.6 Functional correctness ... 32

10 Dataset-level taxonomy ... 32
10.1 General ... 32
10.2 Basic information ... 33
10.3 Data provenance ... 33
10.4 Data properties ... 35
10.5 Dataset domain and purposes ... 36
10.5.1 General ... 36
10.5.2 Language data domain details ... 36
10.5.3 Vision data domain details ... 37
10.6 Data biases and limitations ... 37
10.7 Societal considerations ... 37
10.8 Data preparation performed ... 38
10.9 Dataset maintenance ... 39

Annex A (informative) **Examples of transparency templates ... 40**

Annex B (informative) **Examples of stakeholder roles in transparency ... 41**

Bibliography ... 43

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 42, *Artificial intelligence*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/CLC/JTC 21, *Artificial Intelligence*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

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Introduction

The objectives of this document include:

— improving trustworthiness, accountability and communication among different AI stakeholders, including partners in a supply chain, customers, users, society and regulators, by establishing a consistent terminology around transparency of AI systems;

— providing AI stakeholders with information about different elements of transparency with their relevance and possible limitations to different use cases and target audience;

— serving as a basis for developing technology-specific, industry-specific or region-specific standards for transparency of AI systems.

Transparency for AI systems is the property of a system that stakeholders receive relevant information about the system. This can include information on items such as system features, limitations, data, system design and design choices (see ISO/IEC 22989:2022, 5.15.8).

Transparency enables relevant stakeholders to have access to information, so they can better understand how an AI system is developed, deployed and can be used. For example, this allows an AI customer (such as an AI user) of an AI system to determine if it is appropriate for their situation and supports an AI auditor in assessing if the system complies with conformity requirements.

A standardized transparency taxonomy of AI systems helps people with different backgrounds to better understand each other by using the same terminology. This in turn supports an improved understanding of AI systems, and provides a foundation for developing interoperable and coherent transparency related standards.

This document is structured as follows:

— Clause 5 provides an overview of this document and describes the concept of transparency of AI systems;

— Clause 6 discusses how transparency needs can vary depending on the AI system context and on the stakeholders involved;

— Clause 7 discusses transparency items that describe the context of the AI system;

— Clause 8 pertains to describing transparency disclosures at the AI system level;

— Clause 9 focuses on documenting the internal functioning of the system;

— Clause 10 offers guidance on the documentation of datasets as stand-alone items.

AI systems often affect society and the environment (see Clause 7). However, it is also true that society and the environment can affect the performance of an AI system. This can include various aspects, such as:

— environmental conditions that affect the functioning and longevity of an AI system;

— introduction or reinforcement of unwanted bias;

— organizational practices that can cause poor outcomes;

— effects such as concept drift (concept drift occurs when there is a change in the functional relationship between the model's input and output) and data drift (data drift is change in the statistical properties and characteristics of the input data);

— formation of unwanted feedback loops (e.g. negative reinforcement of discriminatory patterns), which can be especially problematic in the case of continuous learning.

While these are important items for consideration, a detailed analysis is not provided in this document. Some of these aspects are further detailed in ISO/IEC 23894, ISO/IEC 27701, and ISO/IEC 29134.

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Information technology — Artificial intelligence (AI) — Transparency taxonomy of AI systems

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1 Scope

This document specifies a taxonomy of information elements to assist AI stakeholders with identifying and addressing the needs for transparency of AI systems. The document describes the semantics of the information elements and their relevance to the various objectives of different stakeholders.

This document is applicable to any kind of organization and application involving an AI system.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 22989:2022, *Information technology — Artificial intelligence — Artificial intelligence concepts and terminology*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 22989 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
attestation
issue of a statement, based on a decision, that fulfilment of *specified requirements* (3.14) has been demonstrated

Note 1 to entry: The resulting statement is intended to convey the assurance that the specified requirements have been fulfilled. Such an assurance does not, of itself, provide contractual or other legal guarantees.

Note 2 to entry: First-party attestation and third-party attestation are distinguished by the terms declaration, certification and accreditation, but there is no corresponding term applicable to second-party attestation.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2020, 7.3; modified — removed 'referred to in this document as a "statement of conformity"' from Note 1.]

3.2
carbon footprint
carbon footprint of a product
CFP
sum of greenhouse gas emissions and greenhouse gas removals in a product system, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalents and based on a life cycle assessment using the single impact category of climate change

[SOURCE: ISO 14050:2020, 3.11.1; modified — added the preferred term "carbon footprint"]

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