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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES AS CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES:

THE ITALIAN STATE OF PLAY

SIXTEENTH WROXTON WORKSHOP OF
PARLIAMENTARY SCHOLARS AND
PARLIAMENTARIANS

Table of contents

OVERVIEW

AI'S GROWING
ROLE IN
PARLIAMENTARY
FUNCTIONS

FOCUS ON
GEN-AI IN THE
ITALIAN
PARLIAMENT

PURPOSE:
ASSESS
COMPATIBILITY
WITH
CONSTITUTIONAL
PRINCIPLES

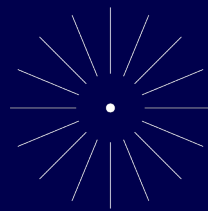
A brief outlook

The State of AI in the Italian Parliament

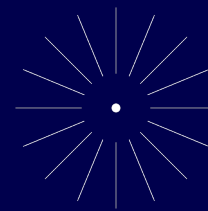
- BACKGROUND
- EARLY ADOPTER OF AI PROPOSALS
- DIALOGUE WITH SCHOLARS AND PUBLIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DIGITIZATION
- AI USE
- GENERATIVE AI TOOLS LIKE CHATGPT
- AI IN LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING AND RESEARCH



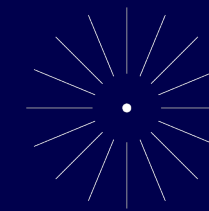
Generative AI Explained



WHAT IS GENERATIVE AI?

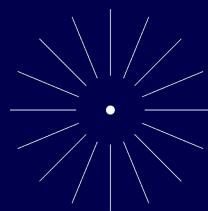


AI SUBSET PRODUCING
NEW CONTENT

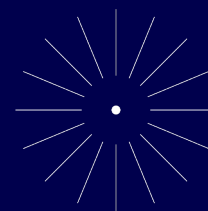


TEXT, CODE, AUDIO,
MUSIC, AND VIDEO
GENERATION

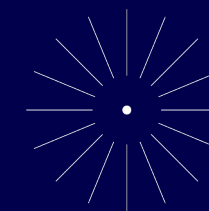
INFERRING
MECHANISM



MACHINE LEARNING
REQUIRES LARGE
DATASETS



LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS
(LLMS) LIKE GPT-4



Using GenAI...



IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGES

- EASY INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY (NO CODING SKILLS REQUIRED)
- FAST IN PRODUCING RESULTS
- HELPFUL FOR REPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

DRAWBACKS

- POTENTIAL FOR ERRORS AND MISINFORMATION
- ISSUES WITH FACTUAL ACCURACY AND SOURCE RELIABILITY
- HALLUCINATIONS
- GLITCHES
- SHALLOW REASONING AND STANDARDIZED STYLE



Distinctive Nature of Parliaments

in a constitutional democracy

- Unique role of parliaments as constitutional representative bodies
- Parliamentary privileges, autonomy and independence
- Parliaments reflect popular will
- Perform Legislative, executive oversight, and budget setting functions
- Multifunctionality of parliamentary procedures
- Flexibility of parliamentary rules

AI in Legislative Procedures

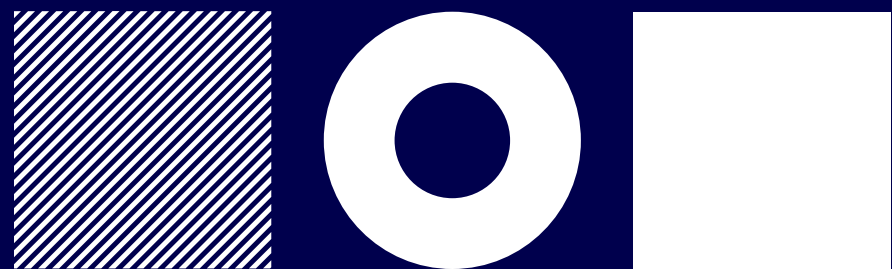


- Polygonal nature of parliamentary procedures
- AI can enhance not only legislative procedures but also executive oversight
- Caution for procedures that can affect the free will of MPs
- Speeding-up procedures does not signify improving the quality of legislation

Case Study: The Italian Parliament

- DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SINCE THE 1990s
 - Parliamentary research and documentation
 - Machine-scanning and TESEO System for Classification of Parliamentary Documents
 - LOD – Linked Open Data
 - Automatic Speech Recognition for immediate transcription
 - Subtitling software
 - Automated translation of documents
-
- SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE'S 2024 REPORT

In-House Software for Amendment Management



-
- “Emendamenti in Commissione”
SOFTWARE
 - SPEEDING UP AMENDMENT FOLDER
PREPARATION
 - DIGITAL VS. PAPER-BASED SUBMISSION
 - TECHNICAL ADMISSIBILITY REVIEW
 - UPDATING AMENDMENT FOLDERS

Constitutional Challenges

- AI OUTPUT ALWAYS REQUIRES CAREFUL HUMAN REVIEW, ESPECIALLY IN PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES
- AVOID THAT PARLIAMENTARY STAFF CAN ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY BY REFERRING TO AI “DECISIONS”
- AVOID PREEMPTIVE BLOCKAGE OF MPs CONTENT THROUGH ADMISSIBILITY CHECK (MANIFESTO AMENDMENTS)
- ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH THE AMENDMENT RANKING PRACTICES
- ADMISSIBILITY SPEECHES SAFEGUARDS
- FIXED INTERFACE V. ELASTIC LAW
- OMNIBUS LEGISLATION
- OVERALL, CYBERSECURITY ISSUES, TO AVOID LEAKING OF CONFIDENTIAL OR PRIVATE DATA

Future Prospects

- More potential applications
 - SIMILARITY CHECK CAN BE EXTENDED TO OTHER SECTORS
 - Broader use of GenAI in parliamentary research and drafting
- CUSTOMIZED AI-POWERED SOFTWARE WITH TAILOR-MADE AI LEGAL DATABASE



Conclusion

- AI'S TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL IN PARLIAMENTS
- IMPORTANCE OF ALIGNMENT WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES
- AI PIVOTAL FOR BRIDGING GAP WITH THE EXECUTIVE
- CAUTIOUS APPROACH
- PRESERVATION OF LEGITIMACY OF PARLIAMENTARY DECISIONS
- PROACTIVE rather than DISRUPTIVE technology

Q&A

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Thank you!

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