

Capacity Building Workshop – from theory to prototype to real-world action and capacity building

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Purpose of the exercise:

- **General objective:** Collectively discuss how AI can move from promising concepts and prototypes toward practical, scalable use in disaster preparedness
- **Specific objective:** Using a case study, propose up to **three concrete actions to help scale up a project**, considering potential enablers and challenges.

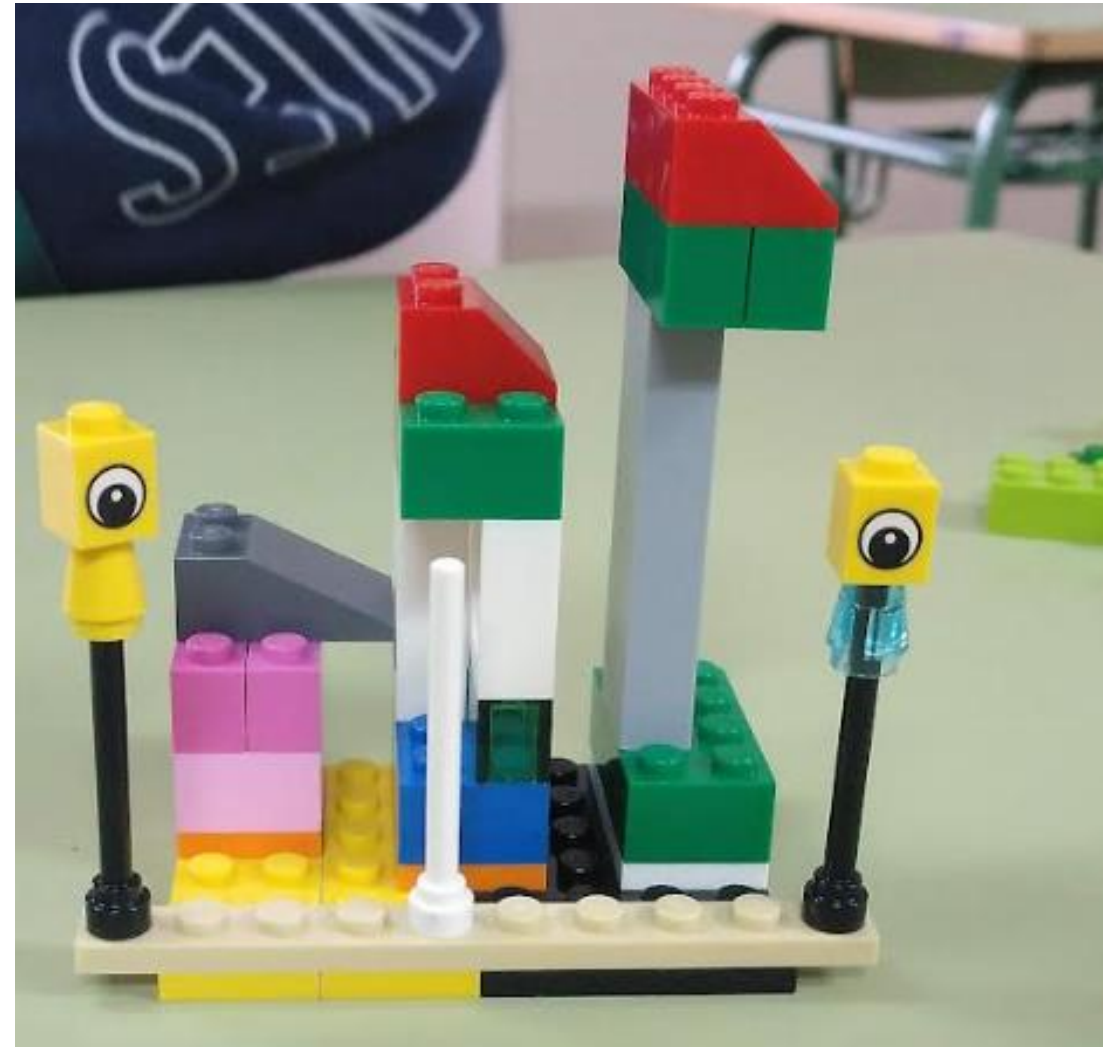
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- **Case Study 1.** A pan-European project funded by the EU's Digital Europe Programme, aimed at developing a Large Language Model (LLM) designed to support public understanding of risks in their area, enhancing preparedness and risk communication for the general public. The tool would provide accessible risk communication to help individuals prepare for different types of natural hazards (**European level**)
- **Case Study 2.** A Horizon Europe-funded project, aimed at enhancing real-time forecasting of natural hazards such as floods and heatwaves by integrating meteorological data, predictive analytics, and impact-based forecasting. The system leverages AI to improve early warning capabilities at national level. (**National level**)
- **Case Study 3.** A Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) Preparedness project, aimed at developing an AI-powered platform that supports local disaster preparedness efforts by helping communities anticipate, plan for, and practice responses to various hazards. The system uses machine learning to analyse local risk profiles and generate tailored preparedness recommendations. (**Local level**)

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How?

- In-person participants will be invited to split into groups of max 10 persons, and each group will be assigned to **one** hypothetical case study (out of the three)
- Groups will gather around a box with **LEGO**. The case study your group will be assigned to is displayed on each **LEGO** box that you can find in the two conference rooms
- Groups have 35 minutes to not only discuss the case studies, but to **visualize** their suggested actions through a **LEGO® Serious Play®** exercise
- One group per case study will be selected to **present their actions and creations** at the end, back in plenary
- **Online participants** will follow a similar process but put down their thoughts into an interactive board (Mural)



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Tips for LEGO ® Serious Play.

- **Get hands-on:** use the LEGO® bricks to bring your concrete actions for scaling up to life - metaphors are encouraged!
- **Discuss within your group:** talk through the case study, sharing ideas on challenges and enablers, to come up with your actions
- **Share the tasks:** make sure everyone gets hands-on time with the bricks. Assign roles or split into smaller teams if needed.
- **Document your work:** We don't want to lose the outcome of your great work, so please record your suggested actions a **in a Form** and, when your creation is complete, also upload a photo of it. A QR code is provided in the instructions on the tables.

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Timing

- **Group activity:** 35 minutes.
 - 5 min: Read your case & plan work.
 - 10 min: Group discussion with notetaking.
 - 15 min: Once you have brainstormed up to three actions, begin building your LEGO model—the construction process might help to refine and ground your ideas!
 - 5 min: Complete your notes, then upload a photo and come back to plenary.
- **Plenary:** 20 minutes.

