

Crash! Boom! Bubble!

The economics of AI and the Nordic welfare state

11 March 2026, 17:00 – 19:00 @ Think Corner Stage (University of Helsinki)

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a household word and one of the most important topics on the EU policy agenda. Some expect it to bring a general leap in productivity and economic growth. However, the leap has yet to materialise, and the stock market boom driven by AI companies has been described as a bubble waiting to be burst. AI is part of the wider digital economy ecosystem that has concentrated power in the hands of monopolistic Big Tech companies. In addition, the use of AI at workplaces and in public administration has brought forth problems related to workers' rights and democratic governance.

Will AI bring a new surge in productivity or is it merely a false promise? What role should AI play in the economy of the future? How should it be regulated to ensure that its benefits are shared and worker rights respected?

In the framework of the FEPS-Nordic Digital Programme, the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS), in collaboration with the Kalevi Sorsa Foundation, Industrial Employees TP, PAM and SAK, organises a discussion on this topic.

Draft programme:

16:30–17:00 Registrations & coffee

17:00–17:05 Opening remarks by

Lauri Finer, Director, Kalevi Sorsa Foundation
Monty Aal, Policy Analyst on Digital, FEPS

17:05–18:00 Expert presentations on

"Ecosystem of AI – Are we in a bubble and what comes next?" by
Leevi Saari, PhD Candidate, University of Amsterdam

"Who rules in the algorithmic world? AI and the future of democracy in Sweden and beyond" by
Simon Vinge, Chief Economist, Akademikerförbundet SSR

"The Nordic welfare state in the age of AI" by
Anne Kaun, Professor of Media & Communication Studies, Södertörn University



18:00-19:00

How to ensure AI benefits society in the Nordics and the EU at large?

Panel discussion with

- **Leevi Saari**, PhD Candidate, University of Amsterdam
- **Simon Vinge**, Chief Economist, Akademikerförbundet SSR
- **Anne Kaun**, Professor of Media & Communication Studies, Södertörn University
- **Antti Hakala**, Director, Trade Union Pro
- **Miapetra Kumpula Natri**, Member of Parliament, SDP

Q&A with the audience

Moderated by

- **Monty Aal**, Policy Analyst on Digital, FEPS

19:00-20:00

Networking reception



This event is produced with the financial support of the European Parliament. It does not represent the views of the European Parliament.