SLOVENSKI STANDARD
oSIST prEN 18287:2026

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Umetna inteligenca - Zahteve in navodila za ocenjevanje vpliva na okolje sistemov in storitev umetne inteligence

Artificial Intelligence - Requirements and guidance for the environmental impact evaluation of artificial intelligence systems and services

Künstliche Intelligenz - Anforderungen und Leitlinien für die Bewertung der Umweltauswirkungen von Systemen und Diensten der künstlichen Intelligenz

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13.020.60	Življenjski ciklusi izdelkov	Product life-cycles
35.240.01	Uporabniške rešitve informacijske tehnike in tehnologije na splošno	Application of information technology in general

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Künstliche Intelligenz - Anforderungen und Leitlinien für die Bewertung der Umweltauswirkungen von Systemen und Diensten der künstlichen Intelligenz

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European foreword

This document (prEN 18287:2026) has been prepared by the Joint Technical Committee CEN-CENELEC/JTC 21 "Artificial Intelligence", the secretariat of which is held by DS.

This document is currently submitted to the CEN Enquiry.

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Introduction

The increasing deployment of AI systems and services, including generative AI applications, is expected to result in a significant growth of the environmental impacts attributable to the AI sector. However, as with other sectors and following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)[1] recommendations, we collectively need to reduce our impact on the planet and to remain within planetary limits to avoid environmental crises with impact on society at large. The rapid adoption of AI systems necessitates a transparent and comprehensive understanding of their environmental footprint. Targets in line with the IPCC P2 scenario were defined in 2020 in the ITU-T L.1470:2020 [1], stating that a reduction of -50% by 2030 of the GHG emissions for the ICT sector relative to 2015 should be required, stating also in the longer term a reduction of the a GHG emissions of about 88% in 2050. Therefore, this document aims at giving the tools and guidance for AI stakeholders to align their development with our global environmental goals, through evaluation and best practices. It builds upon the literature review done in CEN/CLC/TR 18145:2025 [2].

This document focuses on the environmental cost of AI and does not specifically touch upon the environmental benefits associated with its uses. People interested in AI benefits for the environment and climate can consult "Beneficial AI" (ISO/IEC TR 21221:2025 [3]). Environmental costs include direct effects from the consumption of resources due to the Life cycle of the AI system, and the physical materials on which it is based.

In addition, a more sustainable Artificial Intelligence represents a necessity for the deployment at scale of AI, in a context of limited supply of energy and other material resources. Through this harmonized methodology, companies will be able to reach cost reduction and economies of scale, by integrating better risk management in a context of resource scarcity and climate emergency.

Different types of organizations can be interested in having access to the environmental assessment of artificial intelligence, including business and civil society organisations, academia, research organisations, public entities, trade unions and consumer protection organisations.

Moreover, small and medium-sized companies will be able to benefit from relevant market positioning through the promotion of AI models that are more respectful of the environment and less resource-consuming, encouraging a sustainable innovation ecosystem. In a broader perspective, Corporate Social Responsibility teams can be especially interested in this standard, has it will enable AI systems to be included as a quantifiable component of companies' extra-financial reporting obligations as well as being accounted as components of products affected by the European Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) method.

Other standardization bodies are currently working on this growing topic. It is important to note that the goal was to align this document with the work of those other organizations, to make sure that the sector benefits from methods that are comparable. As such, we acknowledge IEEE P7100 (Standard for Measurement of Environmental Impacts of Artificial Intelligence Systems) and ITU-T L.1801 (Guidelines for assessing the environmental impact of artificial intelligence systems).

[1] https://www.ipcc.ch/

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1 Scope

This document specifies requirements, guidance and metrics for environmental impact evaluation of artificial intelligence systems and services and gives guidance on impact reduction throughout its Life cycle. This document establishes requirements and guidance on reporting and communicating about the environmental impact of AI. This document also provides techniques to evaluate potential indirect negative or positive consequences of AI systems and services, for stakeholders to anticipate or mitigate them.

This document is applicable to the entire Life cycle of AI systems and services, from inception to end-of-life.

This document is applicable to LCA practitioners conducting life-cycle analyses for AI systems or AI services, organizations developing and using AI systems or AI services (AI providers and deployers), and all actors in the value chain.

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.

EN ISO 14040, *Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Principles and framework (ISO 14040:2006)*

EN ISO 14044, *Environmental management - Life cycle assessment - Requirements and guidelines (ISO 14044:2006)*

EN ISO 14067, *Greenhouse gases - Carbon footprint of products - Requirements and guidelines for quantification (ISO 14067:2018)*

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3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1
artificial intelligence system
AI system
machine-based system that is designed to operate with varying levels of autonomy and that may exhibit adaptiveness after deployment, and that, for explicit or implicit objectives, infers, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical or virtual environments

[SOURCE: [4]]

3.2
artificial intelligence model
AI model
construct containing logical operations, arithmetical operations or a combination of both to generate an *inference* (3.29) or prediction based on input data or information without being completely defined by human knowledge

[SOURCE: ISO/PAS 8800:2024 [5]]

3.3
data centre
structure, or group of structures, dedicated to the centralized accommodation, interconnection and operation of information technology and network telecommunications equipment providing data storage, processing and transport services together with all the facilities and infrastructures for power

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distribution and environmental control together with the necessary levels of resilience and security required to provide the desired *service* (3.20) availability

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30134-1:2016 [6]]

3.4
first order effect
direct environmental effect associated with the physical existence of an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) solution, i.e. the raw materials acquisition, production, use and end-of-life treatment stages, and generic processes supporting those including the use of energy and transportation

[SOURCE: ITU-T L.1480:2022 [7]]

3.5
base model
AI model (3.2) that is trained on a massive amount of data and that can be integrated into a variety of downstream AI systems

Note 1 to entry: A significant part of "base models" is called *General Purpose AI model* (3.9) or "foundational models" or "foundation models". However, those last terms include only very large models that can have multiple purposes, while "base models" can include smaller models achieving only a specific *task* (3.22) that are then fine-tuned.

3.6
ecodesign
systematic approach that considers environmental aspects in design and development with the aim to reduce adverse environmental impacts throughout the *life cycle* (3.14) of a product

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC TS 20125-1 [8]]

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3.7
ecopractice
set of requirements and recommendations referring to a specific topic within a *life cycle* (3.14) stage to achieve the *ecodesign* (3.6) of a *digital service* (3.21)

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC TS 20125-1 [8]]

3.8
functional unit
FU
quantified performance of a product system for use as a reference unit in a *life cycle assessment* (3.15)

[SOURCE: EN ISO 14040 [9]]

3.9
general purpose AI model
GPAI
AI model (3.2), including where such an *AI model* (3.2) is trained with a large amount of data using self-supervision at scale, that displays significant generality and is capable of competently performing a wide range of distinct tasks regardless of the way the model is made available to third parties and that can be integrated into a variety of downstream systems or application

Note 1 to entry: *base model* (3.5) has a wider meaning that *GPAI* (3.9) models. *GPAI* (3.9) models are sometimes referred as "foundational models" or "foundation models".

[SOURCE: [4]]

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3.10
higher order effect
indirect effect (including but not limited to rebound effects) other than first and second order effects occurring through changes in consumption patterns, lifestyles and value systems

[SOURCE: ITU-T L.1480:2022 [7]]

3.11
intended purpose
use for which an *AI system* (3.1) is intended by the provider, including the specific context and conditions of use, as specified in the information supplied by the provider in the instructions, as well as in the technical documentation

[SOURCE: [4]]

3.12
impact category
class representing environmental issues of concern to which *life cycle* (3.14) inventory analysis results may be assigned

[SOURCE: EN ISO 14040 [9]]

3.13
impact category indicator
quantifiable representation of an *impact category* (3.12)

[SOURCE: EN ISO 14040 [9]]

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3.14
life cycle
consecutive and interlinked stages of a product system, from raw material acquisition or generation from natural resources to final disposal

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[SOURCE: EN ISO 14040 [9]]

3.15
life cycle assessment
LCA
compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs and the potential environmental impacts of a product system throughout its *life cycle* (3.14)

[SOURCE: EN ISO 14040 [9]]

3.16
market-based electricity GHG quantification
method to quantify the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from electricity / energy inputs into a product system based on GHG emissions emitted by the generators from which the reporting entity contractually purchases electricity bundled with contractual instruments, or contractual instruments on their own

[SOURCE: EN ISO 14064-1:2019 [10]]

3.17
location-based electricity GHG quantification
location-based approach is a method to quantify the GHG emissions from electricity / energy inputs into a product system based on average energy generation emission factors for defined geographic locations, including local, subnational or national boundaries

[SOURCE: EN ISO 14064-1:2019 [10]]

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3.18
power usage effectiveness
PUE
ratio of the *data centre* (3.3) total energy consumption to information technology equipment energy consumption, calculated, measured or assessed across the same period

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30134-2:2016 [11]EN 50600-4-2:2016 [12]]

3.19
second order effect
indirect impact created by the use and application of Information and Communication technologies (ICT) which includes changes of environmental load due to the use of ICT that could be positive or negative

[SOURCE: ITU-T L.1480:2022 [7]]

3.20
service
means of delivering value for the customer by facilitating outcomes the customer wants to achieve

Note 1 to entry: A *service* (3.20) can be not entirely digital.

Note 2 to entry: A *service* (3.20) may or may not include one or more AI systems but is not limited to them. As such, it would be an oversimplification to use the term "AI *service* (3.20) ". As a consequence it is not recommended to talk about AI services, but instead use more generic terms such as "*service* (3.20) " or "*digital service* (3.21) " that relies on/embeds one or more AI systems.

Note 3 to entry: A *service* (3.20) is characterized by defined interfaces, conditions of use and operational responsibility. As a consequence, parts of the customer-side impacts shall be attributed to the *service* (3.20) 's impacts.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 20000-1:2018 [13]]

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3.21
digital service
service (3.20) that provides one or several functions to users through a combination of electronic devices, software and telecommunication networks, with clearly defined functional boundaries, interacting with each other

Note 1 to entry: A *digital service* (3.21) may use other digital services. In this case, requirements and guidance apply to all services under control of the organization performing the environmental impact evaluation.

Note 2 to entry: A *digital service* (3.21) may or may not use an *AI system* (3.1) but every *service* (3.20) using one or more AI systems is a *digital service* (3.21) .

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC TS 20125-1:2026 [14]]

3.22
task
action required to achieve a specific goal

EXAMPLE Generation, classification, regression, ranking, clustering, dimensionality reduction.

Note 1 to entry: Actions can be physical or cognitive. For instance, computing or creation of predictions, translations, synthetic data or artefacts or navigating through a physical space.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 22989:2022 [15]]

3.23
thermal design power
TDP
maximum amount of heat a CPU or *GPU* (3.27) generates

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[SOURCE: ISO/IEC TS 8236-1:2025 [16]]

3.24
utilization rate
percentage of utilization relative to the maximum of an IT equipment capacity over a given period

3.25
water usage effectiveness
WUE
ratio of the *Data centre* (3.3) water consumption divided by the energy consumed by IT equipment

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 30134-9:2022 [17]]

3.26
random access memory
RAM
memory that can be accessed in any order and which has no endurance limitations

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 11889-1:2015 [18]]

3.27
graphical processing unit
GPU
application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) specialized for display functions such as rendering images

Note 1 to entry: GPUs are designed for parallel data processing of images with a single function, but this parallel processing is also useful for executing AI-based software, such as neural networks.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC TR 29119-11:2020 [19]]

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3.28
training
process to determine or to improve the parameters of an *AI model* (3.2)

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 22989:2022 [15]]

3.29
inference
reasoning by which conclusions are derived from known premises

Note 1 to entry: In AI, a premise is either a fact, a rule, a model, a feature or raw data.

Note 2 to entry: The term "*inference* (3.29) " refers both to the process and its result.

[SOURCE: EN ISO/IEC 22989:2023 [20]]

4 Introduction to AI systems in the context of environmental evaluation

4.1 Stakeholders and value chain

Stakeholders mainly involved in AI sustainability best practices and environmental evaluation are:

— **AI Provider**: a company or organization that develops an *AI system* (3.1) or that has an *AI system* (3.1) developed and places it on the market or puts the *AI system* (3.1) into *Service* (3.20) ([4]),

— **AI Deployer**: a company or organization using an *AI system* (3.1) under its authority except where the *AI system* (3.1) is used in the course of a personal non-professional activity ([4]).

Other stakeholders that can contribute to the best practices and the evaluation evaluation are:

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- **IT hardware manufacturer**: a company or organization that fabricates, constructs, assembles or delivers physical components of an information processing system (adapted from ISO/IEC 2382:2015 [21]),
- **Non-IT hardware manufacturer:** a company or organization that fabricates, constructs, assembles or delivers *Data centre* (3.3) building construction and *Data centre* (3.3) non-IT equipment (e.g. power backup, distribution and cooling, environmental control equipment),
- **IT hardware raw material provider**: a company or organization that provides any substance going into or involved in the manufacturing of hardware, includes upstream extractive and primary processing actors (e.g. mining/refining),
- **Network provider**: a company or organization that provides a collection of interconnected elements that provides connection services to users (adapted from ISO/IEC 16500-1:1999 [22]), including terrestrial and subsea cables and satellite networks,
- **Data infrastructure provider**: a company or organization that provides hardware and software elements for creating, capturing, collecting and curating data from various sources,
- **Cloud *service* (3.20) provider**: a company or organization which makes cloud services available (adapted from ISO/IEC 22123-1:2023 [23]),
- **Computing *service* (3.20) provider**: a company or organization which makes computing services available, including edge and HPC infrastructures,
- ***data centre* (3.3) operator**: a company or organization which operates a *Data centre* (3.3),
- **Electricity supplier**: an entity that delivers electricity to end use customers (ISO 17800:2017 [24]),
- **Water supplier:** an entity that delivers water to end use customers.

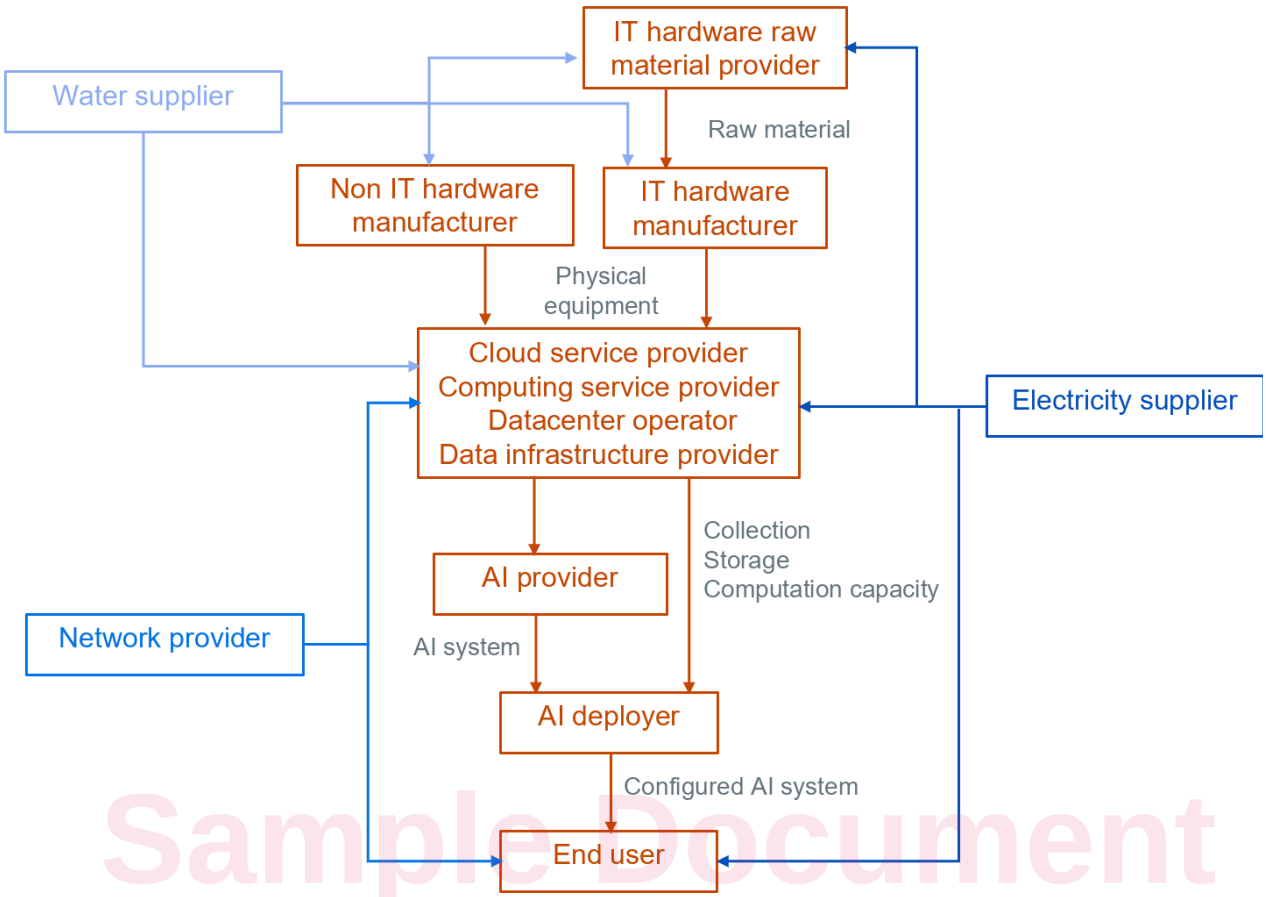
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This list of stakeholders is not exhaustive. Other parties may be affected by environmental impacts occurring along the *AI system* (3.1) *life cycle* (3.14) and its supporting infrastructure, and relevant end-of-life operators; but economic and social aspects are outside the scope of *LCA* (3.15) and of this standard.

To ensure the highest-quality environmental reporting, these stakeholders supply the data necessary for the *LCA* (3.15) practitioner to compute the environmental impact of AI systems and to put best practices in place. This document will suggest a repartition of roles for the provision of environmental data, so that a downstream evaluation can be realized at the end of the value chain.

The most common value chain of AI systems is represented in Figure 1 a). Figure 1 b) shows how stakeholder software and models interact to build an *AI system* (3.1) .

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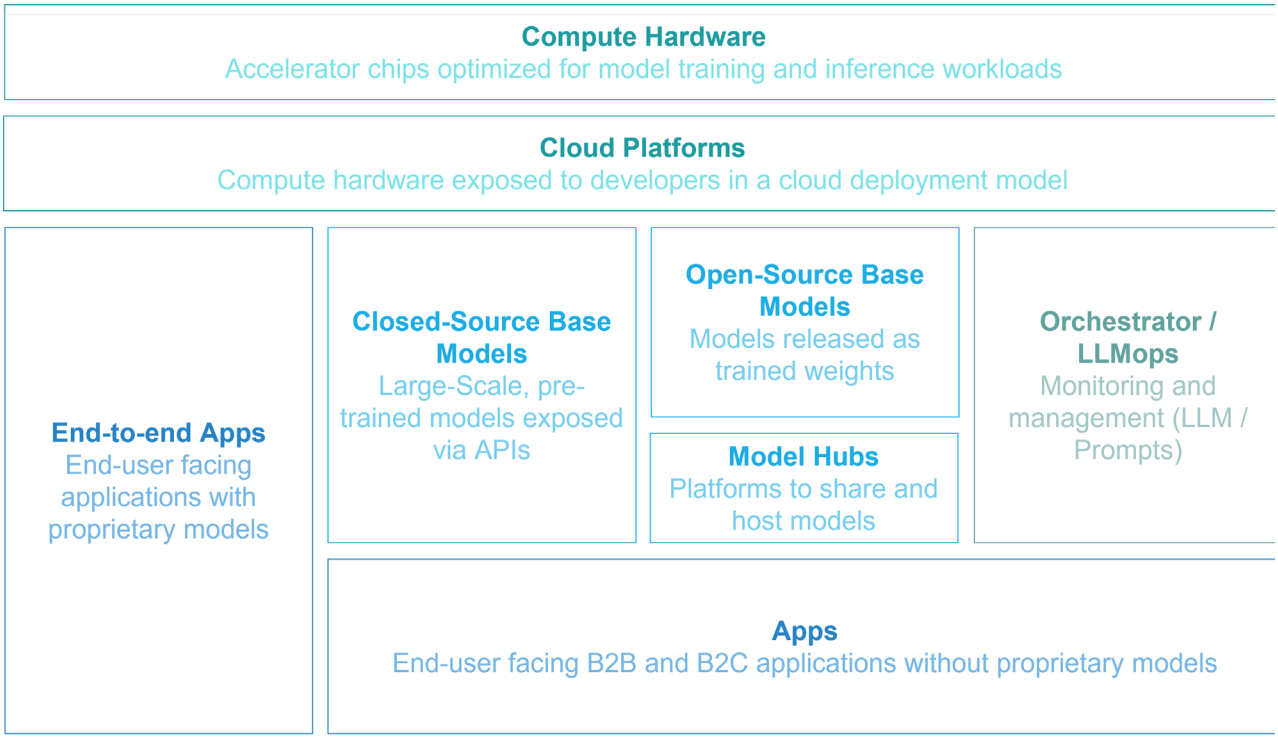


a) ***Simplified value chain of AI Systems***

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b) ***Value chain of Generative AI Systems***

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Figure 1 — Value chains for AI Systems

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4.2 Life cycle of the AI system

The system can include several *AI models* (3.2) serving the system, including supporting models for example for scoring, ranking and classification.

The *AI system* (3.1) is being developed, put on the market and used through this *life cycle* (3.14) (ISO/IEC 22989:2022 [15]):

— **Inception**: One or more stakeholders decide to transform an idea into a concrete system, with the decision to move to the design and development stage.

— **Design & Development**: *AI system* (3.1) creation stage, resulting in an *AI system* (3.1) ready for the verification and validation stage.

— **Verification & validation**: Verification that the *AI system* (3.1) resulting from the design and development stage operates in accordance with the requirements and achieves the objectives defined at previous stages of the *life cycle* (3.14) , including safety and trustworthiness.

— **Deployment**: The *AI system* (3.1) is installed, deployed or configured to operate in a target environment.

— **Operation & Monitoring**: The *AI system* (3.1) is operating and is generally available for use.

— **Continuous validation**: If the *AI system* (3.1) uses continuous learning, the operation and monitoring stage is extended by an additional continuous validation stage, including the assessment of safety and trustworthiness. Incremental *training* (3.28) takes place continuously while the system is running in production.

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