

FOUR DECADES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SLOVENIA

Ivan Bratko

University of Ljubljana, Tržaška 25, Ljubljana
and J. Stefan Institute, Jamova 39, Ljubljana

Tel: +386 1 768393

e-mail: bratko@fri.uni-lj.si

Today there are at least ten research laboratories in Slovenia that can be counted as being importantly involved with Artificial Intelligence research, with solid funding that comes mainly from the Slovenian and EU research programs and projects. There are about 150 researchers involved in this research.

In this talk I will describe how all this started about four decades ago with a few researchers, and how it developed into the present, rather sizable Slovenian AI community. I will tell some memorable stories, largely from my own personal perspective, of exciting research ideas and scientific achievements in the process. I will also describe the immense benefit that Slovenian AI enjoyed from the collaboration with Donald Michie, one of the pioneers of AI and a co-worker of Alan Turing during the 2nd World War, and other excellent researchers, including Claude Sammut and Stephen Muggleton, who once worked at Donald's research institutions Edinburgh University and Turing Institute in Glasgow.