

PRESS RELEASE

MANOLO gathers 2nd hybrid project meeting in Barcelona, Spain among robots!

The MANOLO project organised its 2nd consortium meeting on July 3-4, 2024, in Barcelona, Spain. The meeting, hosted by [PAL Robotics](#), brought together the project partners to discuss the progress and future directions of the project.

Day 1 Highlights:

The meeting started with [PAL ROBOTICS](#) and their [TIAGo](#) robot welcoming all participants in their premises, followed by the coordinator, [NUIDUCD-CeADAR](#), who also offered a warm welcome and started the sessions with logistical details for the two days of the meeting. The first day was marked by collaborative and highly interactive sessions among partners focusing on co-designing MANOLO solutions, sharing insights, and defining technical and non-technical requirements, core functionalities, operational expectations, milestones, and reporting needs.

Highlights from the main sessions included:

- key findings from the landscape analysis on human-centered efficient and trustworthy AI in the cloud-edge continuum,
- participatory workshops on co-designing the core functionalities and integration of the benchmarking framework, co-defining the MANOLO system architecture appropriately, and finally
- a workshop on trustworthiness following the [Z-Inspection](#)[®] process, building upon the socio-technical scenarios of the use cases and AI components.

Across all sessions, the use of existing open data, libraries, and other technologies have been discussed thoroughly, whereas responsibilities, especially for ensuring AI trustworthiness across all project activities, were explored in more detail. The day concluded with actionable timelines and clear next steps.



Day 2 Highlights:

The second day focused on the specifications and current progress of the implementation of the MANOLO toolkit and its components, starting from the data tier to HW-aware model training and optimization discussing future activities and architectural issues. The discussion continued with cloud-edge continuum considerations, tackling federated learning to cloud-edge resource management and optimal allocation.

During the afternoon sessions, the meeting addressed dissemination, communication, and exploitation strategies, as well as opportunities for synergies, including [ADRA](#) events, projects, and initiatives. The meeting also included a brief update on the status of the Ethics and Industrial Advisory Board, its members, and forthcoming activities. Overall, the consortium meeting in Barcelona fostered a collaborative environment, facilitating strategic planning and innovation for the MANOLO project's future phases.

As the meeting's closure, PAL Robotics provided an impressive demonstration of their robots' diverse capabilities, showcasing applications in logistics, healthcare, and even concert support. Discussions also touched on efficiency and trustworthiness aspects relevant to the MANOLO framework.

PAL's team stated:

"PAL Robotics is proud to be part of the MANOLO project, which will showcase the integration of our TIAGo robots in manufacturing and healthcare. This collaboration not only demonstrates the practical application of dynamic AI algorithms but also significantly advances the role of robotics in diverse operational environments, positively impacting both our company and the global tech landscape."



The MANOLO consortium, under the leadership of **Ireland's National Centre for Applied AI, CeADAR**, is composed of 18 partners across 8 European countries: Ireland, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Romania, and Spain. The consortium members include: [NUIDUCD-CeADAR](#), [UPC](#), [ATOS IT](#), [EVIDEN RO](#), [TUBS](#), [NCSR "D"](#), [FDI](#), [INRIA](#), [Fraunhofer IIS](#), [UPSaclay](#), [ARCADA](#), [KU Leuven](#), [LAUREA](#), [PAL ROBOTICS](#), [BIT&BRAIN](#), [ARX.NET](#), [Q-PLAN](#), and [EIT DIGITAL](#).

