



AI Governance Readiness Snapshot 2026

A practical governance overview designed to help organisations evaluate AI maturity, compliance readiness, and operational preparedness.

Governance Maturity Scale

Level	Description
1 — Initial	No formal AI governance structure or accountability.
2 — Developing	Basic awareness of AI risks and emerging governance needs.
3 — Structured	Documented governance processes and risk management practices.
4 — Managed	Cross-functional governance with monitoring and oversight.
5 — Optimised	Responsible AI governance embedded into operations and strategy.

Key AI Risk Categories

- Data privacy and GDPR exposure
- Bias, fairness, and ethical concerns
- Lack of human oversight and accountability
- Third-party and vendor AI risks
- Documentation and transparency gaps
- Security and operational resilience issues
- EU AI Act non-compliance exposure
- Insufficient internal awareness and training

EU AI Act Readiness Indicators

Indicator	Key Question
AI Inventory	Do you know where AI systems are used?
Risk Classification	Have systems been categorised by risk level?
Governance Ownership	Are responsibilities clearly assigned?
Documentation	Are AI decisions and processes documented?
Human Oversight	Can humans intervene when necessary?
Transparency	Can AI outputs be explained to stakeholders?

Governance Checklist

- Defined AI governance roles and responsibilities
- AI usage inventory established
- Risk assessment process documented
- GDPR and privacy controls reviewed
- Human oversight procedures implemented
- Internal AI policies drafted or approved
- Vendor and third-party AI risks evaluated
- Employee awareness and training initiated

Recommended First Actions

1. Identify all existing and planned AI usage within the organisation.
2. Assign governance ownership and accountability.
3. Evaluate regulatory exposure under GDPR and the EU AI Act.
4. Establish documentation and approval processes.
5. Introduce human oversight and monitoring practices.
6. Build an AI governance roadmap aligned with business objectives.