ACTIVITY REPORT
2023

valgrai

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction and general framework of the report

We welcome you to the 2023 Activity Report of the **Valencian Graduate School and Artificial Intelligence Research Network (ValgrAI),** a document that collects the effort, achievements and progress made by our team, underlining the importance of collaboration, training, innovation, and research in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Objectives of the report
The main objectives of this report are:
- Provide a comprehensive overview of the activities carried out by ValgrAI throughout 2023, highlighting the impact and significant advances in the field of AI.
- To showcase ValgrAI's commitment to research excellence, talent training and scientific dissemination, highlighting the fundamental role of our collaborators and partners.
- Demonstrate the fulfilment of the foundational purposes set out in its statutes, emphasizing ValgrAI's contribution to the technological and scientific development of the Valencian Community and beyond.
- Establish a framework for future initiatives, promoting the sustained growth of our community and the expansion of our collaborative network.

ValgrAI Overview Framework

ValgrAI stands as a benchmark in the training, research, development, and dissemination of Artificial Intelligence, committed to the generation of knowledge and innovative solutions that respond to current and future challenges. Our mission focuses on promoting AI as a tool for social, economic, and scientific progress, supporting cutting-edge research, the development of specialized talent, and the creation of synergies between academia, industry, and society.

Through strategic collaboration with universities, public entities, and companies, ValgrAI promotes advanced training programs, R&D projects, and dissemination events, strengthening the AI ecosystem in the Valencian Community and projecting its influence nationally and internationally.

The 2023 Annual Report is a testament to our determination to lead digital and technological transformation through artificial intelligence. We invite our collaborators, partners, and the community at large to join us on this exciting journey into the future of AI.

Greetings

At ValgrAI, we firmly believe that the path to success is a journey that would not be possible without the community around us. Throughout our brief, but intense, history, we have managed to reach significant milestones and overcome challenges that seemed insurmountable. These achievements are not only the result of our effort and dedication, but also the invaluable support and collaboration of the Generalitat Valenciana, our collaborators, employers, community, and teamwork.

We would especially like to thank the **Generalitat Valenciana**, promoter and main financial support of ValgrAI through unique agreements with the **Conselleria de Innovación, Universidades, Ciencia y Sociedad Digital** and **Conselleria de Educación, Universidades y Empleo**. From the beginning, the Generalitat has been a fundamental pillar, launching the project and ensuring its sustainability and growth through decisive financial support for the 2022 and 2023 financial years. This collaboration has been essential for the development of ValgrAI, allowing us to maintain existing projects and explore new horizons and launch innovative initiatives. The trust placed in our foundation by the Generalitat has been a key driver to achieve our objectives and reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of artificial intelligence in the Valencian Community.

We are also especially grateful to **S2 Group, Nunsys, Hidraqua, Idrica, IVI RMA Global, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Balearia and Indaws**, our partner companies, as well as to the Future of Life Institute. Each of these companies and institutions has been an essential piece in the gear of our growth, contributing their commitment, resources and a spirit of innovation that has allowed us to expand our capabilities and explore new horizons, as well as being able to launch new projects (or maintain those that already existed).

Their trust and commitment have propelled us to new heights and has been crucial in every step we have taken. Together, we've proven that hard work and collaboration can translate into extraordinary results, making a difference in the world of technology and beyond. Thank you, once again, for being an essential part of our history and for believing in us. Your collaboration has not only helped us grow; Together, we are redefining the future.
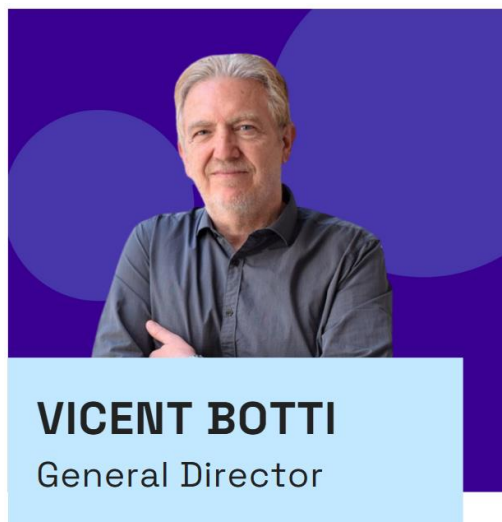
Message from Vicent Botti

As General Director of ValgrAI, it fills me with gratitude and pride to look back and reflect on the journey we've traveled together since our founding just three years ago. From day one, our journey has been marked by the close collaboration and tireless support of the Generalitat Valenciana, which has not only been the initial spark that gave life to this project, but also the pillar that has sustained our growth and evolution through essential agreements that have allowed us to expand our border s and deepen our impact.

The trust and financial support provided by the Generalitat, through the **Conselleria de Innovación, Universidades, Ciencia** and later by **Sociedad Digital** and **Conselleria de Educación, Universidades y Empleo**., have been decisive. This support has not only facilitated the launch of pioneering initiatives and the implementation of activities that have enriched the AI ecosystem in the Valencian Region but has also allowed ValgrAI to be a benchmark in the training, research, and dissemination of artificial intelligence at a national and international level.

VICENT BOTTI
General Director

I cannot fail to express my gratitude to our collaborators, universities, and community, as well as to those people who have already been trained in Artificial Intelligence thanks to ValgrAI. Your active participation and commitment to our mission have been critical to the success of the foundation. Together, we have managed to establish a solid foundation on which to continue building a future where artificial intelligence is a driver of positive change, innovation, and sustainable development.

This collective collaboration, this team spirit and community, is what has allowed us to overcome challenges and achieve significant achievements in such a short period of time. Looking ahead, with renewed enthusiasm and commitment, I am convinced that we will continue to make progress towards our goals, driven by the conviction that, by working together, we can redefine the future of technology and make the Valencian Community a global benchmark in artificial intelligence. Thank you for believing in this dream, for being part of this adventure and for contributing, day after day, to making ValgrAI an increasingly bigger and more meaningful reality.

Message from Ana Cidad

The brief history of the ValgrAI Foundation aligns perfectly with the historical moment we are living around Artificial Intelligence. Everything indicated in 2021 that AI was going to be a key technology that could start a new era, which promoted the creation of ValgrAI by the Generalitat Valenciana because of the Artificial Intelligence Strategy of the Valencian Community. It is precisely at the end of 2022 when the opening of ChatGPT by OpenAI and the formation of the Foundation's initial team take place, almost simultaneously. Over the course of 2023, in line with the advances that have taken place in the democratization of AI technologies, ValgrAI has marked its true operational debut. This year has seen a monumental effort to overcome initial challenges, build an exceptional team, and forge an innovative community in our region. ValgrAI has established itself as a beacon of research, education, and dissemination in the field of Artificial Intelligence, contributing significantly to its ecosystem.

ANA CIDAD
Managing Director

This success would not have been possible without the invaluable support of the Generalitat, the Valencian public universities, and our collaborating companies. The dynamism and dedication of our team have been fundamental in this journey, evidenced by the sustained growth of our ValgrAI Community, the Joint Research Unit, and the expansion of our circle of collaborators and patrons.

Looking ahead, 2023 has firmly laid the groundwork for a 2024 of triumphs. With Artificial Intelligence at the heart of our era and aligned with the technological revolution we are experiencing, ValgrAI is uniquely positioned to lead the way to a technology-enhanced future. It's time to stand united in our mission, move towards a world where AI is used as a force for good, and cement our shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and sustainable positive impact.

1.

ABOUT
VALGRAI

1. About ValgrAI

1.1. About ValgrAI

ValgrAI (Valencian Graduate School and Research Network of Artificial Intelligence) is a non-profit foundation made up of the Generalitat Valenciana, foundational patron companies and the five public universities of the Valencian Region (Universitat de València (UV), Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV), Universitat d'Alacant (UA), Universitat Jaume I (UJI) and Universidad Miguel Hernández (UMH)), coordinates AI training and research in the Valencian Region to respond to the technological needs of companies and promote the creation of new talent in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to renew the production model of the Valencian Region.

Mission
Promote and develop postgraduate training, research, and cooperation in Artificial Intelligence to contribute to economic, social, and cultural development and the advancement of knowledge. Vision

Vision
We are an international benchmark in training and research in Artificial Intelligence and associated disciplines.

1.2.   A bit of our history

In the last three years, ValgrAI has emerged as a key player in the development and promotion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) within the Valencian Region. Since its conception in 2021, ValgrAI has grown and evolved significantly. Under the direction of Vicent Botti and the unconditional support of collaborating entities and companies, the foundation has established a robust infrastructure for AI talent, thus marking the beginning of a journey towards excellence and innovation.

Some of the foundation's milestones have been:

September 2021
The project was born in the **Generalitat Valenciana.**

Under the general direction of **Vicent Botti**, and with the support of the companies on the **board of trustees**, ValgrAI was established and with the foundation, the first groups and councils.

July 2022
The first activities begin. **The first ValgrAI** Scientific Council Forum takes place, and the first grants are awarded to master's students and the **first research incentive grant program** for the recruitment of predoctoral and postdoctoral research staff.

November 2022
Ana Cidad joins as Managing Director of the project, **Fernando Mínguez** as Head of Marketing and Communication and **Laura Martínez** as Head of Administration.

February 2023
New partners join ValgrAI, thus promoting the organization of new outreach events and new activities.

March 2023
First class of the "AI for Teachers" course, ValgrAI's first AI specialization course.

July 2023
2nd edition of the ValgrAI Scientific Council Forum, in which more than 280 people register.

September 2023
Héctor Calvete (Innovation Agent) joins the team.

November 2023
Esther Cerveró (Communication and head of the AIIA project) joins the team.

December 2023
First edition of the ValgrAI Artificial Intelligence Awards in the Valencian Region.

1.3.   Board of trustees

ValgrAI's Board of Trustees is the main governing body that makes it possible to set up the foundation. This governing body is made up of the **Generalitat Valenciana, the five Valencian public universities and leading companies in the sector**, all committed to the advancement of artificial intelligence in the Valencian Community.

This synergistic collaboration between the public and private sectors, along with academia, has been essential to the creation of a robust ecosystem in which AI innovation, research, and training flourish.

1.4. Partners

ValgrAI partners play a crucial role in the development and success of our initiatives. Through their patronage and financial contribution in the form of a donation, they enrich the ValgrAI ecosystem with their experience and knowledge and provide valuable resources and an indispensable spirit of innovation. This commitment and financial support significantly expand our operational and strategic capabilities, allowing us not only to keep projects ongoing, but also to explore and launch new initiatives in the field of artificial intelligence. Their vital contribution sustains and propels our mission, strengthening ValgrAI's impact in the AI community and beyond.

The trust and support of these collaborators underlines the importance of cooperation between the public sector, academia, and industry, and is testament to the potential of cross-sector collaboration to drive technological advancement and innovation.

Since the beginning of our foundation's activity, our collaboration network has expanded, including agreements with research centers and technology companies.

1.5. Joint Research Unit

The ValgrAI Joint Research Unit, made up of a network of more than 50 highly qualified researchers in artificial intelligence, is an essential element in the development and application of artificial intelligence within the Valencian Community. These global connections with institutions and individuals who are experts in artificial intelligence are fundamentally oriented towards the promotion of research excellence. These relationships enrich the spectrum of our research and ensure that our projects are at the forefront of cutting-edge technology and innovation. The network of knowledge and experience we have cultivated is essential for the development of cutting-edge research that advances the field of AI and facilitates the transfer of technology to leading companies in the sector. This synergy between research excellence and industrial collaboration is what allows us to drive progress and remain a benchmark in artificial intelligence research.

This group brings together leading scientists and academics, men, and women, who have passed certain criteria of excellence, working collaboratively to drive innovation and knowledge in the field of AI. The ValgrAI Mixed Unit stands out for being an avant-garde research hub, where the synergy between experts, knowledge and technology continuously redefines the limits of what is possible in artificial intelligence, consolidating itself as a benchmark in the Valencian Community and beyond.

To get to know the members of the Joint Research Unit and learn more about their experience, visit the ValgrAI website: Joint Research Unit

1.6.   ValgrAI Community

The ValgrAI Community encapsulates an ecosystem of collaboration and innovation at the heart of artificial intelligence. This concept encompasses all the groups, entities and individuals that are part of ValgrAI, creating a rich and diverse space where passion for AI translates into concrete actions. From academics and students to technology companies and industry professionals, the ValgrAI Community represents the union of shared efforts and visions towards the advancement and application of AI. This community fosters the exchange of knowledge and experiences and strengthens ValgrAI's impact on research, education, and society, reaffirming the foundation's commitment to technological development and sustainable innovation.

Scientific Council

ValgrAI's Scientific Council is made up of distinguished international personalities in the field of artificial intelligence, consolidating itself as a key element for the orientation and enrichment of the foundation's research and development activities. The experts who make up this council are:

- **Ramón López de Mántaras** - CSIC
- **Frank van Harmelen Vrije** - Universiteit Amsterdam
- **Virgínia Dignum** - Umeå University
- **Tom Dietterich** - Oregon State University
- **Marco Dorigo** - Université Libre de Bruxelles
- **Georg Gottlob** - University of Oxford
- **Hiroaki Kitano** - Sony Group Corporation
- **Yolanda Gil** - University of Southern California
- **Michael Wooldridge** - University of Oxford
- **Carme Torras** - CSIC

The diversity and extensive experience of its members, drawn from world-class academic and research institutions, ensure that ValgrAI remains at the forefront of AI innovation and knowledge.

Academic Council

ValgrAI's Academic Council is comprised of eminent academics in the field of artificial intelligence, each bringing vast knowledge and experience from different angles and disciplines. The role of the Academic Council is crucial, providing strategic direction, academic oversight, and advice in the formulation of training and research programmes. Its diversity of experts in areas such as planning and recommender systems, semi-structured data integration, or brain-machine interface systems, ensures that ValgrAI is always aligned with the latest trends and developments in the field of AI.

This pooling of talents reflects ValgrAI's commitment to academic excellence, ensuring that the foundation continues to be a leader in the promotion and application of artificial intelligence for the benefit of society and industry. The collaboration between these leading scholars and ValgrAI not only strengthens the foundation's foundation, but also serves as a vital bridge between academia and the real world, enabling knowledge transfer and the implementation of effective and ethical AI solutions.

To meet the members of the ValgrAI Academic Council and learn more about their experience: About ValgrAI

Strategic alliances and agreements

ValgrAI is proud of its strategic alliances forged through agreements signed with leading institutions and companies. These collaborations are central to ValgrAI's mission to advance research, development, and education in the field of artificial intelligence.

Through these agreements, ValgrAI and its partners commit resources, knowledge, and expertise to promote joint projects, training initiatives and research programs that benefit both the scientific community and society at large. These partnerships expand the scope and impact of ValgrAI's activities and underscore the foundation's commitment to creating a collaborative, cutting-edge AI ecosystem.

The alliances and agreements that have been forged in 2023 have been:

1.7. Our team

Vicent Botti –General Director: Vicent leads the coordination and scientific direction of ValgrAI, supervising all project activities to ensure its progress towards excellence.

Ana Cidad – Managing Director: Ana oversees the planning and execution of the Foundation's research and training strategy. It coordinates all activities, establishes strategic partnerships, and directs effective programmes implementation.

Fernando Mínguez – Marketing & Operations: Fernando optimizes communication channels and manages ValgrAI's reputation. In addition, he oversees the CRM, website, and leads marketing initiatives for attraction and lead management.

Laura Martínez – Administration & Finance: Laura manages the administration and accounting of ValgrAI, including the grant programs and complying with the necessary audits.

Héctor Calvete – Innovation Agent: Héctor coordinates R&D projects, promoting applied research and collaboration with the business environment to facilitate the transfer of knowledge in AI.

Esther Cerveró – Communication and AIIA manager: Esther leads communication and public relations and, as innovation coordinator, drives AIIA, promoting collaboration and transfer with the business sector.

2.

MASTER'S DEGREE STUDY GRANTS PROGRAM

2. Master's Degree Study Grants Program

As part of its mission to foster excellence and innovation in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), ValgrAI has played a crucial role by establishing a strong program in supporting the advanced study of this discipline. This commitment has materialized in a collaboration with Valencian public universities, thus promoting high-level training in one of the most promising and rapidly evolving areas of technology.

This strategic approach reflects ValgrAI's dedication to **fostering academic and professional excellence in AI** and aligns its actions with one of the foundation's fundamental objectives: **to build a solid base of knowledge and skills in AI within the Valencian Region**. With this program, ValgrAI invests in the training of promising students, but also in the very fabric of the technological future, ensuring that the Valencian Community and Spain continue to be nerve centers of innovation and excellence in AI.

2.1. Master's Degree Study Grants Program 2023/24

These grants have been allocated to students from nine different master's programmes related to AI, distributed in the five prestigious public universities of the Valencian Region: **Universitat de València, Universitat Politècnica de València, Universitat d'Alacant, Universitat Jaume I and Universidad Miguel Hernández**. The supported programs cover a broad spectrum of specializations, including Data Science, Data Analysis Engineering, Process Improvement and Decision Making, and Robotics, among others, thus ensuring complete coverage of the various areas within AI.

Universidad de València
- **Máster en Ciencia de Datos**

Universidad Politècnica de València
- **Máster Universitario en Inteligencia Artificial y Reconocimiento de Formas**
- **Máster Universitario en Ingeniería y Tecnología de Sistemas Software**
- **Máster Universitario en Ingeniería de Análisis de Datos, Mejora de Procesos y Toma de Decisiones**

Universitat d'Alacant
- **Máster Universitario en Ciencia de Datos**
- **Máster Universitario en Inteligencia Artificial**

Universitat Jaume I (Castelló)
- **Máster en Sistemas Inteligentes**

Universidad Miguel Hernández (Alacant)
- **Máster Universitario en Estadística Computacional y Ciencia de Datos**
- **Máster Universitario en Robótica**

ValgrAI's strategy for the distribution of grants for master's studies in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) has been meticulously designed to foster talent, taking into account academic excellence and the volume of credits taken by students. This approach has made it possible to offer financial support ranging from partial grants of €1,500 to total grants of €3,000.

In total, **the grants awarded between the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years have reached 372 students with a total amount of more than 1 million euros.**
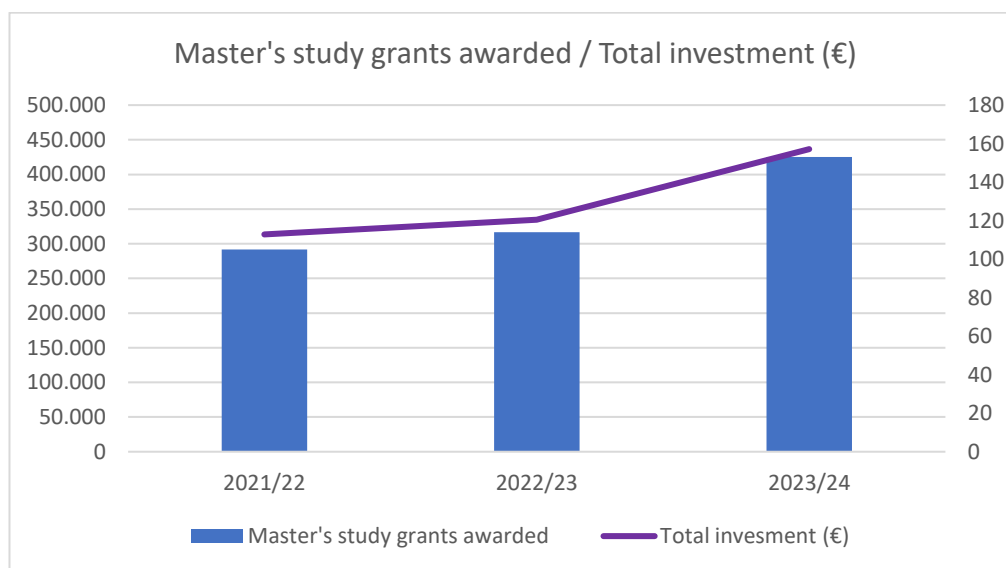
Specifically, in 2023, **153 master's degree study grants were awarded** for the 2023/24 academic year, a total investment of €436,500 in training new talent.

Master's Degree	University	Number of grants	Number of grants extended[1]	Resignation	Complete grant	Partial grant	Formalized	Quantity
Máster Universitario en Robótica	UMH	10	10	2	6	2	**8**	21.000 €
Máster Universitario en Ingeniería y Tecnología de Sistemas Software	UPV	10	19	8	10	1	**11**	31.500 €
Máster Universitario en Ciencia de Datos	UA	12	23	10	10	3	**13**	34.500 €
Máster Universitario en Estadística Computacional y Ciencia de Datos para la Toma de Decisiones	UMH	10	15	2	11	2	**13**	36.000 €

---

[1] The number of grants is expanded after reallocating part of the allocation of AI research incentive grants to these grants and due to resignations of beneficiaries of this grant. Aid is expanded and reassigned to master's degrees with a waiting list.

Máster en Ingeniería de Análisis de Datos, Mejora de Procesos y Toma de Decisiones	UPV	10	15	2	13	0	**13**	39.000 €
Máster Universitario en Inteligencia Artificial	UA	18	30	13	15	2	**17**	48.000 €
Máster Universitario en Sistemas Inteligentes	UJI	20	26	6	18	2	**20**	57.000 €
Máster Universitario en Ciencia de Datos	UV	20	28	1	26	1	**27**	79.500 €
Máster Universitario en Inteligencia Artificial, Reconocimiento de Formas e Imagen Digital	UPV	20	33	2	29	2	**31**	90.000 €
		130	**199**	**46**	**138**	**15**	**153**	**436.500 €**

During this year, ValgrAI has provided direct financial support to students through these grants and has worked to increase visibility and access to these training programs. This effort has contributed significantly to positioning ValgrAI as a benchmark in AI training, attracting highly qualified and motivated students.

Through these initiatives, and others mentioned in this paper, ValgrAI has demonstrated its commitment to the advancement of AI, supporting the academic training of future leaders in the field, dissemination, and public understanding of this transformative technology. The collaboration between ValgrAI and Valencian public universities is an exemplary model of how these types of synergies can foster education, research, and innovation in key areas for the future.

3.

RESEARCH INCENTIVE GRANT SCHEMES

3. Research Incentive Grant Schemes

During 2022 and 2023, ValgrAI has consolidated its position as a driving force in the research and development of artificial intelligence. In this section, it highlights our initiatives, projects and collaborations that mark the path towards technological progress and scientific knowledge.

- **Research staff hired thanks to grants for the 2022/2023 period:** Through ValgrAI's AI research incentive grant program launched in 2022, the recruitment of predoctoral and postdoctoral research staff has been encouraged, thus supporting young talents in their contribution to the field of AI. The selection was made through a rigorous competitive process, evaluating the applications for their academic excellence and research potential. The contracted staff (12 predoctoral researchers and 6 postdoctoral researchers) have carried out their research work during the 2023 year.

- **AI Research Incentive Program 2023/24 and contract renewal:** After the success of the previous year's call, ValgrAI decided to launch a new AI research incentive program, awarding grants to 10 new predoctoral researchers. In addition, at the end of 2023, support has also been renewed for research staff whose projects were funded in 2022 that have shown a significant impact and who have decided to continue with us. This commitment ensures the continuity of promising research and the development of innovative solutions.

3.1.   Research staff during the period 2022/2023

Within the framework of the AI Research Incentive Program during the years 2022 and 2023, ValgrAI has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting young talent and advanced research in the field of artificial intelligence. Throughout these two years, **24 contracts have been generated for predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers, of which 10 have been renewals**, thus demonstrating ValgrAI's continuous support for research projects that provide innovative solutions and advance scientific knowledge.

Thanks to the "UNIQUE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GENERALITAT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES, SCIENCE AND DIGITAL SOCIETY AND THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND NETWORK OF RESEARCH CENTRES IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - FOUNDATION OF THE VALENCIAN REGION (ValgrAI), FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2022" the employment contract of the following people was financed, within the framework of the ValgrAI 2022 research incentive grants. These contracts began at the end of December 2022 and have carried out their research work during 2023:

	Name	University	Title of thesis or research project
POSTDOC 2022	Colomer Granero, Adrián	UPV	Boosting Computer Aid diagnostic systems with deep generative learning
POSTDOC 2022	Giménez Palacios, Iván	UPV	The non-emergency transportation of patients
POSTDOC 2022	Domingo Ballester, Miguel	UPV	Advancements in the Application of Neural Machine, Translation for the Processing of Historical Documents
POSTDOC 2022	Cebollada López, Sergio	UMH	Study of hybrid hierarchical models for localization with mobile robotics and AI
POSTDOC 2022	El-Deredy, Wael	UV	Imaging Brain dynamics: between biophysics, machine learning and big data
POSTDOC 2022	Marín Lora, Carlos	UJI	Intelligent Agents for Video Game development
PREDOC 2022	Santo López, Antonio	UMH	Where should I walk?
PREDOC 2023	Soriano Segura, Paula	UMH	Development of self-tuning Brain-Machine Interfaces for gait control of lower limb exoskeletons
PREDOC 2023	Martínez Martínez, Alex	UJI	StudentPerformance, GameAland more...
PREDOC 2023	Martín, Micaela Yanet	UJI	Selection of the best viewpoint for the camera's placement in video games
PREDOC 2023	Ferrer Sánchez, Antonio	UV	Deep Learning applied to Fundamental Physics: Physics-Informed Neural Networks
PREDOC 2023	Hanna, Bassam	UV	Deep Physiotherapy
PREDOC 2023	García D'Urso, Nahuel Emiliano	UA	Predicting the shape of the human body using computer vision and deep learning techniques
PREDOC 2023	García Ponsoda, Sandra	UA	Feature Engineering Techniques for the Diagnosis of ADHD by means of Deep Learning.
PREDOC 2023	Franco Martins Souza, Beatriz	UPV	Improving Conceptual Domain Characterization in Ontology Networks
PREDOC 2023	Mehrbakhsh, Behzad	UPV	Dataset Contamination

PREDOC 2023	Pérez Bernal, Christian	UPV	Component analysis for reinforcement learning in energy-efficient manufacture systems
PREDOC 2023	Meseguer Esbrí, Pablo	UPV	Deep Learning Analysis for Histopathology Images

3.2. AI Research Incentive Program 2023

This effort has continued in 2023 with the formalization of **10 new predoctoral contracts**, after adjustments for resignations and the inclusion of candidates from the waiting list. These contracts, distributed among the five Valencian public universities, represent a **total investment of €240,000**, reflecting the importance that ValgrAI attaches to the training and development of future leaders in AI. The diversity of the universities and the quality of the selected researchers underline the scope and depth of ValgrAI's commitment to academic excellence and applied research, thus strengthening its position as a benchmark in the promotion of artificial intelligence in the Valencian Region and beyond.

	Name	**University**
PREDOC 2023	Saadoon Hammad, Sahibzada	UJI
PREDOC 2023	Jay Cuervo, Aldan Jochino	UJI
PREDOC 2023	López Barajas, Salvador	UJI
PREDOC 2023	Arteaga Betancourt, Heidy	UMH
PREDOC 2023	García Sigüenza, Javier	UA
PREDOC 2023	Penadés Migallón, José Héctor	UA
PREDOC 2023	Muñoz García, Victoria	UA
PREDOC 2023	Golfe San Martín, Alejandro	UPV
PREDOC 2023	Casañs Gómez, Miguel	UV
PREDOC 2023	Alabau Bosque, Nuria	UV

New predoctoral contracts in 2023

And the following contracts from the previous year have been renewed:

	Name	**University**
POSTDOC 2022	Marín Lora, Carlos	UJI
POSTDOC 2022	Domingo Ballester, Miguel	UPV
POSTDOC 2022	El-Deredy, Wael	UV
PREDOC 2022	Martínez Martínez, Alex	UJI
PREDOC 2022	Santo López, Antonio	UMH
PREDOC 2022	Soriano Segura, Paula	UMH
PREDOC 2022	García D'Urso, Nahuel Emiliano	UA

PREDOC 2022	García Ponsoda, Sandra	UA
PREDOC 2022	Franco Martins Souza, Beatriz	UPV
PREDOC 2022	Mehrbakhsh, Behzad	UPV
PREDOC 2022	Pérez Bernal, Christian	UPV
PREDOC 2022	Meseguer Esbrí, Pablo	UPV
PREDOC 2022	Ferrer Sánchez, Antonio	UV
PREDOC 2022	Hanna, Bassam	UV

2022 contracts renewed in 2023.

In total, the investment in each of the universities has been as follows:

University	Grants	Amount
UPV	6	138.000,00 €
UV	5	139.733,33 €
UA	5	120.000,00 €
UJI	5	139.733,33 €
UMH	3	72.000,00 €
TOTAL	**24**	**609.466,66 €**

Summary of aid and incentive amounts
to AI research awarded by university

4.

I VALGRAI ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AWARDS VALENCIAN REGION

4.   I ValgrAI Artificial Intelligence Awards Valencian Region

On November 16, 2023, with the aim of highlighting and recognizing the work carried out by students and researchers in the field of Artificial Intelligence and thus promoting postgraduate research and training, ValgrAI launched for the first time the call for the I ValgrAI Artificial Intelligence Awards Valencian Region in the following categories:

1. Best Master's Thesis in Artificial Intelligence and Associated Disciplines
2. Best PhD Thesis in Artificial Intelligence and Associated Disciplines
3. Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Data Science of the University of Valencia
4. Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Artificial Intelligence, Shape Recognition and Digital Image of the Universitat Politècnica de València.
5. Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Engineering and Technology of Software Systems of the Universitat Politècnica de Valencia
6. Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Data Analysis Engineering, Process Improvement and Decision Making of the Universitat Politècnica de València.
7. Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Data Science at the University of Alicante.
8. Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Intelligent Systems at the Universitat Jaume I
9. Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Computational Statistics and Data Science at the Miguel Hernández University.
10. Best Record of the Master's Degree in Robotics at the Miguel Hernández University.

The prize consists of a cash prize of €1,000 for each winner, along with a statuette and certificate.

For the categories of grants for the best master's degree record (categories 3 to 10), each university provided information on the students with the best academic record in each master's degree. For the categories for the best doctoral thesis and best master's thesis, a period for submitting applications was opened until November 26, 2023. There were 25 nominations for the best Master's Thesis and 6 nominations for the best doctoral thesis in AI.

The jury was made up of the Joint Research Committee of the ValgrAI Joint Research Unit (composed of a representative of the Generalitat Valenciana, five vice-rectors of the Valencian public universities and five representatives of the researchers of the ValgrAI Joint Research Unit) and two representatives of the companies of the ValgrAI Board of Trustees. The criteria of research excellence of the candidatures were taken into account, mainly based on the objective criterion of the number and quality of scientific publications generated by each Master's Thesis or Doctoral Thesis.

At the awards ceremony, held at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló on December 18, 2023, and with more than 220 attendees, the names of the winners were announced:

ISABEL FERRI - Best Master's Thesis in Artificial Intelligence and Associated Disciplines. Award presented by Susana Fabregat Carrasquer (Delegate of the Council of the Generalitat Valenciana in Castellón).

ÓSCAR JOSÉ PELLICER - Best Doctoral Thesis in Artificial Intelligence and associated disciplines. Award presented by Ramón López de Mántaras (CSIC and director of the scientific council of ValgrAI)

ALBERTO MARTÍNEZ - Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Data Science at the University of Valencia. Award presented by Jesús Conill (Professor at the University of Valencia and ValgrAI researcher)

INMACULADA DESIDERIO - Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Artificial Intelligence, Shape Recognition and Digital Image at the Universitat Politècnica de València. Award presented by Miguel Juan (Director of S2 Group and secretary of ValgrAI)

MARIO ANDREU VILLAR - Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Engineering and Technology of Software Systems at the Universitat Politècnica de Valencia. Award presented by Francisco Vea (vice-president of Xarxatec)

FERNANDO CARCELLER - Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Data Analysis Engineering, Process Improvement and Decision Making at the Universitat Politècnica de València. Award presented by José Hernández-Orallo (professor at the Universitat Politècnica de València and ValgrAI researcher)

JORGE DÍAZ - Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Data Science at the University of Alicante. Award presented by Rafael Molina (Vice-Rector for Digital Transformation of the University of Alicante)

JOAQUÍN GONZÁLEZ - Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Intelligent Systems at the Universitat Jaume I. Award presented by Vicente Ramón Tomás López (Director of the Department of Engineering and Computer Science of the UJI)

LORENA NACHER - Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Computational Statistics and Data Science at the Miguel Hernández University. Award presented by Jorge Capel (CTO of the Product Innovation Area & Product Manager ExpertBrain at NUNSYS)

JOSÉ GARCÍA - Best Academic Record of the Master's Degree in Robotics at the Miguel Hernández University. Award presented by Antonio Sánchez Zaplana (Head of Innovation at Hidraqua)

Link: I Premios ValgrAI Inteligencia Artificial Comunitat Valenciana 2023

5.

INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

5. Innovation and research

The year 2023 has marked a significant milestone for ValgrAI, not only in terms of R&D projects, but also in the dissemination of our findings and knowledge through scientific articles. This section compiles and celebrates our team's contributions to the scientific community and the general public.

This year we have overcome challenges, capitalized on opportunities, and made significant progress on our research goals. We celebrate our achievements by underscoring our unwavering commitment to developing AI solutions that are both innovative and ethically responsible. For our current and future collaborators, this document offers a window into ValgrAI's successes, demonstrating our potential to lead and transform the technology landscape.

- **R&D projects**: The year 2023 has witnessed our ambition and determination, with the presentation of 10 R&D project proposals. Of these, 3 projects were approved, securing a combined funding exceeding €340,000. These achievements reflect our ability to conceive and execute cutting-edge research that captures the interest and support of prestigious funding institutions. In addition, due to our continuous concern, we are developing internal projects in collaboration with academic entities and our collaborators to explore new sources of funding.

- **Scientific Production**: Our researchers have achieved excellent productivity when it comes to publishing in prestigious scientific journals and participating in international conferences, presenting advances in AI ranging from deep learning techniques to applications in health and robotics. These publications reinforce our role as active contributors to the global advancement of knowledge in AI. In 2023, the researchers associated with the ValgrAI Joint Unit have participated in 347 scientific articles in relevant journals. This exceeds the production of the previous two years with a total of 300 publications in 2021 and 339 in 2022.

Both the R&D projects and scientific publications in 2023 underline our commitment to transparency, knowledge sharing, and AI education, thus contributing to a future where technology is understood and applied responsibly and ethically.

5.1. New R&D projects

Throughout 2023, our team demonstrated its firm commitment to research and development, participating in various competitive calls with a total of ten R&D and training project proposals submitted. This dedication was productive, culminating in the approval of three projects with combined funding exceeding €340,000. These projects range from the promotion of talent and innovation in the field of artificial intelligence to the evaluation and control of predictable AI.

Although several proposals were rejected, with topics ranging from the valorization and transfer of research results to environmental awareness and social insertion through AI, each of these results has been a cornerstone in our path to progress. Unawarded proposals have served as a source of learning and improvement, deepening our understanding, and sharpening our strategies for future calls. Far from seeing these denials as failures, we regard them as crucial steppingstones that have enriched our experience and knowledge, positioning us strongly for future successes.

In addition, we remain hopeful about the pending resolution of another significant project, with a budget allocated to ValgrAI of €250,000, confident that our thoughtful approach and adaptability will set us apart in a highly competitive environment. This outlook reflects our commitment to constantly seeking funding to drive the advancement of knowledge and practical application in AI and related areas, and highlights our unique ability to navigate and excel, reaffirming our leadership at the forefront of technological innovation.

Requested and accepted projects

Valencian Research Agency (AVI) - Talent promotion: Innovation agents.
- Title and call code: VALGRAI INNOVATION AGENT. INNTA1/2023/7
- Start – end dates: 01/09/2023 – 31/12/2025.
- Budget: 185.879,08 €

Valencian Research Agency (AVI) - Complementary actions to promote and strengthen innovation.
- Title and call code: Artificial Intelligence Innovation Alliance (AIIA). INNACC/2023/11
- Start – end dates: 01/10/2023 – 31/12/2025.
- Budget: 149.959,80 €

Future of Life Institute
- Title and call code: Predictable AI: Evaluation, Anticipation and Control.
- Start – end dates: 01/03/2023 – 31/08/2023.
- Budget: $7,000.00

Projects requested and pending approval.

Spanish Research Agency (AEI) – AI Research Plans.
- Title and call code: Responsible for Artificial Intelligence for Welfare (RAI4Welfare)
- ValgrAI budget: €250,000.00 (Project total: €1,995,749.80).

Projects requested and denied.

Valencian Research Agency (AVI) – Valorisation and transfer of research results to companies.
- Title and call code: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DISINFECTOR ROBOT BY INTENSIVE UV-C LIGHT EXPOSURE - DEEP LEARNING MACHINE

Valencian Research Agency (AVI) – Valorisation and transfer of research results to companies.
- Title and call code: SECURE POST-QUANTUM DISTRIBUTED AND ANONYMOUS ACCESS CONTROL

Banco Sabadell Foundation – Prism and Problems Programme 2023.
- Call for Proposals Title and Code: ESTIMATING THE IMPACT AND SCOPE OF THE SDGS THROUGH THE USE OF AI

PreZero – Súmate: Environmental Awareness Program.
- Title and call code: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIES COURSES. Provision of scholarships for young people who are unemployed or in vulnerable socio-economic situations.

PreZero – Join us: Program Others.
- Title and call code: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND TEACHING COURSE. Endowment of scholarships for senior teachers.

### PreZero – Súmate: Social Insertion Program.

- Title and call code: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CONTENT CREATION COURSE. Provision of scholarships for people who are unemployed or in vulnerable socio-economic situations.

5.2.   Scientific production

ValgrAI has reached a milestone in 2023 with 347 articles published, surpassing the figures of previous years, and highlighting an average FWCI of 1.99, indicative of the high quality and impact of our research. ValgrAI's scientific output in 2023 shows a positive trend compared to previous years.

Total number of publications:
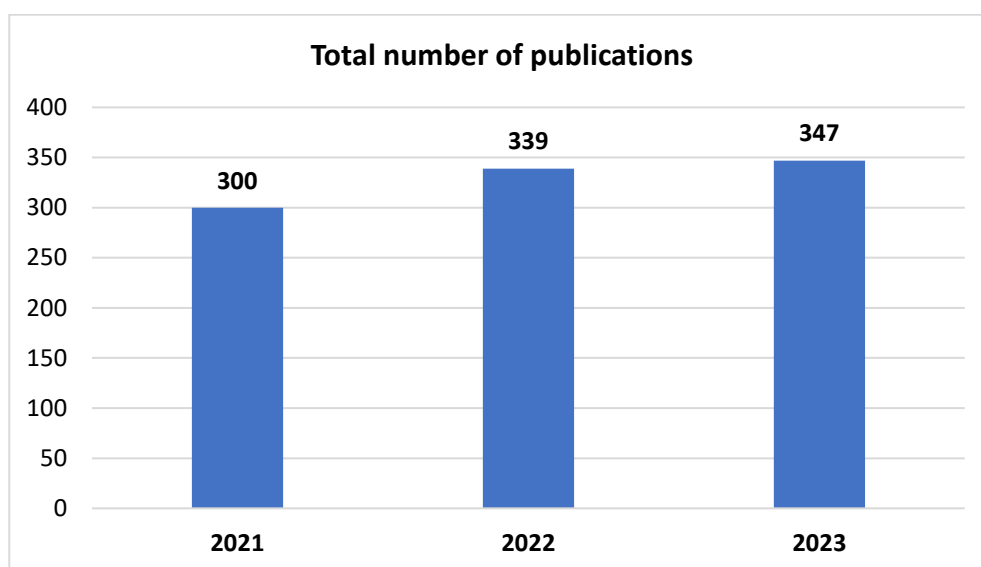
This indicates a steady increase in the number of publications year-over-year, with an increase of 2.4% from 2022 to 2023.

Total citations received:
- 2021: 3,155 citations
- 2022: 1,859 citations
- 2023: 588 citations

The decrease in the total number of citations in 2023 compared to previous years can be attributed to the recent nature of the publications, giving them less time to be cited.

Average Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI):

Max Field-Weighted Citation Impact

	2021	2022	2023
Value	25,49	45,27	88,9
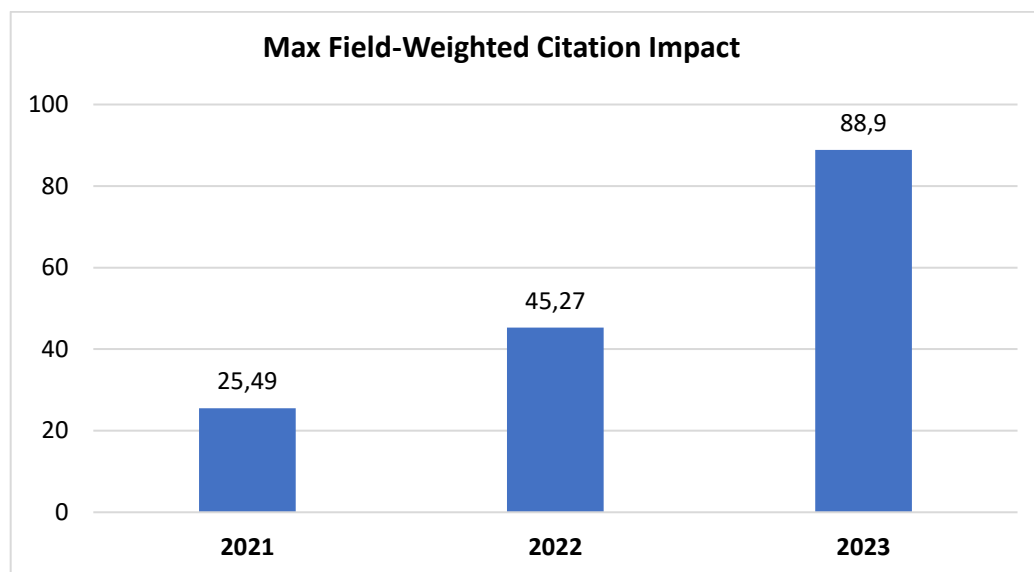
The average FWCI has shown significant year-over-year improvement, indicating that, on average, 2023 publications have a greater impact in their respective fields than those of previous years.

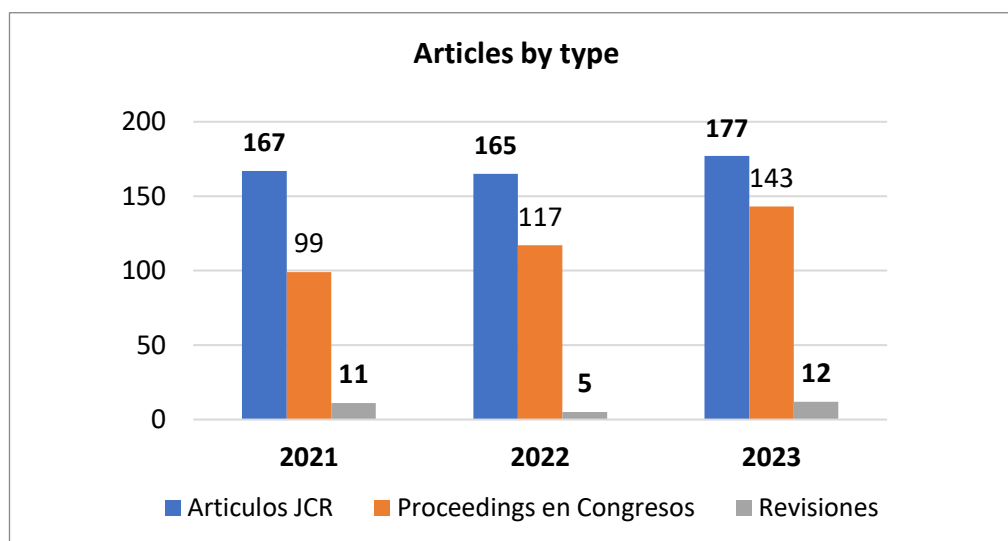**Classification of articles by types and areas of research**

This year, ValgrAI continued its tradition of excellence in research and innovation and cemented its position as a leader in the development of ethical and responsible AI. The achievements highlighted in this scientific report represent our promise to our collaborators and patrons.

The scientific production of the 3 years is broken down in the following table:

	Articles	Citations	Máx. FWCI
2021	**300**	**3155**	**25,5**
JCR	167	2086	12,0
Books	1	49	10,0
Book chapters	8	7	2,5
Congress Proceedings	99	348	19,5
Publishing	12	11	9,4
Corrigendum	1	1	2,0
Letters	1	10	2,9
Reviews	11	643	25,5
2022	**339**	**1859**	**45,3**
JCR	165	1386	45,3
Books	1	2	1,0

Book chapters	28	25	11,4
Congress Proceedings	117	282	41,9
Publishing	1	0	0,0
Corrigendum	10	4	17,0
Letters	2	0	0,0
Reviews	7	43	6,4
JCR	3	13	12,2
Books	5	104	23,3
2023	**347**	**588**	**88,9**
JCR	177	407	28,8
Books	1	0	0,0
Book chapters	2	0	0,0
Congress Proceedings	143	102	88,9
Publishing	2	3	1,0
Corrigendum	7	1	4,1
Letters	1	0	0,0
Reviews	1	14	8,9
JCR	1	0	0,0
Books	12	61	3,8
Total	**986**	**5602**	**88,9**

Articles by type

	2021	2022	2023
Articulos JCR	167	165	177
Proceedings en Congresos	99	117	143
Revisiones	11	5	12

Articles by research area, based on keywords in the titles:

JCR Articles

Pie chart values: 3, 4, 17, 2, 5, 32, 53, 347, 231

- ■ Education and Educational Research
- ■ Maths and physics
- ■ Economy and business
- ■ Others
- ■ Environmental Sciences and Geology
- ■ Social Sciences and Humanities
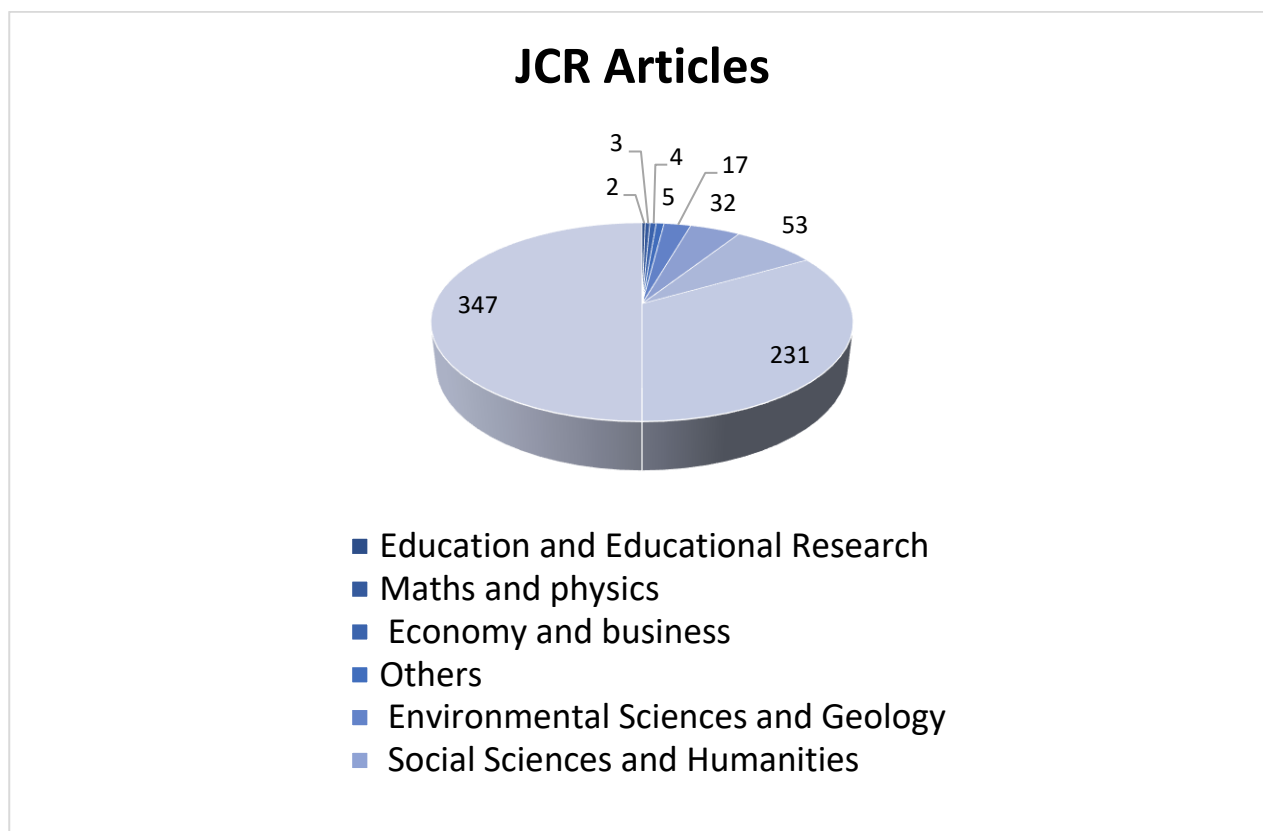
Detailed analysis of the research areas, based on keywords in the titles of the publications, reveals a rich thematic diversity. Most of the publications concentrate on "Technology and Engineering", followed by "Life Sciences and Biomedicine", showing ValgrAI's strength in these crucial disciplines. Although fewer in number, publications in the rest of the categories indicate a commitment to interdisciplinary research and addressing global problems from multiple perspectives.

6.

TRAINING

6.   Training

From the end of the year 2022 until today, ValgrAI has offered a variety of courses and workshops designed to educate and empower the next generation of AI experts. These programs covered everything from AI fundamentals to advanced and specific topics, accessible to students and professionals.

- **AI specialization courses and micro-credentials:** focus on specific topics within the vast field of artificial intelligence. These courses are designed to delve into areas of AI, providing participants with comprehensive knowledge that allows them to specialize in high-demand sectors.

- **Customized training:** offers customized solutions that adapt to the specific needs of companies and institutions. This approach allows for a relevant learning experience that is directly applicable to the professional context of the participants, covering a wide range of applications of AI to drive innovation and efficiency in different corporate environments.

- **Quick Learning:** represents an innovative initiative that provides maximum flexibility, allowing students to take programs of varying duration at their own pace. This modality is ideal for those looking for a quick introduction or refresher on specific AI topics, without the time commitment of longer courses.

All these initiatives have contributed to the professional development of the participants and have served as platforms for the discussion of innovative ideas and the formation of strategic collaborations. The enthusiastic response of the community has reaffirmed the value of these meetings and the importance of continuing education.

6.1.   Specialization AI courses in and micro-credentials

Curso de Inteligencia Artificial aplicada a la docencia

The "Curso de Inteligencia Artificial aplicada a la docencia" ("Course on Artificial Intelligence Applied to Teaching") is specifically designed for teaching staff interested in updating and enriching their educational methodologies through the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and seeking to adapt to the growing presence of AI in the workplace and society. This course focuses on providing an in-depth understanding of the fundamental concepts of AI, how it is applied in various real-world contexts, and the ways in which educators can use these technologies to enhance their students' learning.

The course covers everything from the basic principles of AI to its practical implementation in the classroom. Participants will learn not only the applications of AI, but also important ethical and privacy considerations, preparing them to address the societal impact of these technologies.

Editions: 2
Dates:
- **1st edition:** March 2023 (20 enrolled)
- **2nd edition:** February 2024 (Coming soon)

Duration: 75h (spread over 3 months)
Certificate: Official certificate of achievement issued by the Universtat Politécnica de València together with the ValgrAI quality seal.
Price:
- **1st edition:** 950€ (450€ with discount)
- **2nd edition:** 590€ (450€/490€ discounted) *

*The second edition of the course went through a restructuring in which the contents of the first edition were reduced to adapt it to the needs of the students and to have a more defined target audience.

Link: Curso de Inteligencia Artificial aplicada a la docencia - valgrAI

Curso de Inteligencia Artificial para creación de contenido

The "Curso de Inteligencia Artificial para creación de contenido" ("Artificial Intelligence for Content Creation Course") focuses on exploring and teaching the use of generative AI, an area of artificial intelligence that is experiencing accelerated growth and development. This field offers revolutionary tools for content creation, ranging from text and image generation to video production and 3D modeling. The course is designed for content creators, interested in digital

innovation, who want to take advantage of this emerging technology, optimizing their creative processes and addressing the potential challenges it presents.

This program provides a comprehensive understanding of the most current generative AI technologies. Participants discover how they can apply these tools in their own projects to improve the quality and efficiency of their creative work. In addition to learning about the practical capabilities of AI in content creation, the course also addresses important ethical considerations related to its use, preparing participants to employ these technologies responsibly and effectively.

Editions: 3
Dates:
- **1st edition:** May 2023 (8 enrolled)
- **2nd edition**: November 2023 (16 enrolled)
- **3rd edition**: April 2024 (Coming soon)

Duration: 75h (repartidas en 3 meses)
Certificate: Official certificate of achievement issued by the Universtat Politécnica de València together with the ValgrAI quality seal.

Price:
- **1st edition:** 950€ (475€ with discount)
- **2nd edition**: 950€ (710€ with discount)
- **3rd edition**: 950€ (710€ with discount)

Link: Curso de especialización en Inteligencia Artificial para Creación de Contenido - valgrAI

Curso de Inteligencia Artificial para profesionales del sector TIC

The "Curso de Inteligencia Artificial para profesionales del sector TIC" ("Artificial Intelligence Course for ICT professionals") is aimed at providing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) professionals with a deep and practical understanding of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and deep learning. This program seeks to equip participants with the necessary knowledge to understand the fundamentals of AI, its applications, limitations, and the potential impact on the ICT industry.

The course contents range from data processing, analysis, and processing to the creation of predictive models and the use of unstructured information for specific tasks such as classification, regression and segmentation. It also focuses on how to develop end-to-end solutions that include recommendation systems and content generation, preparing professionals to deploy and monitor these solutions in production environments.

Intended for tech professionals and enthusiasts looking to expand their AI skills, this course offers a solid foundation for application development using cutting-edge development tools, AutoML, and code generation assistance.

Editions: 3 (Editions 2 and 3 are special editions in collaboration with Colleges of Computer Engineering)
Dates:
- **1st edition**: May 2023 (7 enrolled)
- **2nd edition**: November 2023 (9 enrolled)
- **3rd edition**: February 2024 (Coming soon)

Duration: 150h (spread over 6 months)
Certificate: Official certificate of achievement issued by the Universtat Politécnica de València together with the ValgrAI quality seal in collaboration with Universitat d'Alacant and Universitat Jaume I de Castelló.

Price:
- **1st edition**: (750€ with discount)

- **2nd edition**: (€1,250 with discount)
- **3rd edition**: €1,500 (€1,300/€1,390 discounted)

Link: Curso de especialización en IA para profesionales del sector TIC - ValgrAI

Curso de Inteligencia Artificial y Territorios Sostenibles

The "Curso de Especialización en Inteligencia Artificial y Territorios Sostenibles" ("Specialization Course in Artificial Intelligence and Sustainable Territories") is a joint initiative of ValgrAI, the University of Valencia (UV), the Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV), Hidraqua, CETAqua and the School of Water. This educational program arises in response to the growing need for professionals trained to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions in the creation of products and services that promote environmental sustainability and effective management of territories, aligning with the objectives of the global sustainable development agenda.
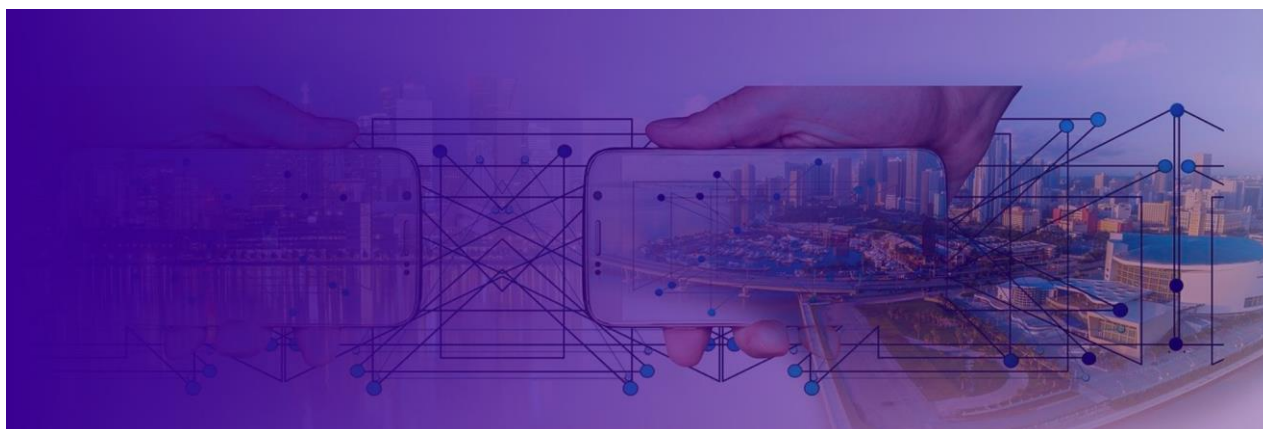
Aimed at professionals and enthusiasts interested in the intersection of AI and sustainability, the course offers a unique combination of technical content and transversal skills focused on project management and direction. Participants will gain in-depth knowledge on how to apply AI in various contexts to foster practices that improve the environment and contribute to efficient and sustainable land management.

Editions: 1
Date: November 2023 (15 enrolled)
Certificate: Official certificate of achievement issued by the Universtat de València together with the ValgrAI quality seal.
Price: 1200€

Link: Curso de Especialización en Inteligencia Artificial y Territorios Sostenibles - valgrAI

6.2. Customized training

In addition to offering specialization courses in artificial intelligence, ValgrAI provides tailor-made training, specifically designed to respond to the unique needs of companies and institutions that want to train their employees or give presentations on specific AI topics. This personalized training modality allows the content and approach of the course to be adapted to the particular objectives and challenges of each organization, thus ensuring a relevant learning experience directly applicable to the professional context of the participants.

Bespoke training at ValgrAI is delivered by a team of academic and industry professionals, combining advanced theory with practical applications to provide in-depth understanding and real-world applicable skills. Using the latest tools and methodologies in AI, these customized courses prepare participants to integrate artificial intelligence into their business processes, thereby improving efficiency, creativity, and the ability to innovate within their organization.

At the Foundation we offer a range of courses that are highly demanded by companies, focused on the practical application of artificial intelligence (AI) to drive innovation and efficiency in different corporate areas. These programs include:

1. **Artificial intelligence to improve your company's processes:** designed for leaders and professionals who seek to optimize business processes through AI, thus increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of their businesses.
2. **AI: The New Assistant Director:** Focuses on how AI can facilitate the management of administrative tasks and support decision-making, acting as a virtual assistant director.
3. **Hands-On Introduction to AI for Middle Management:** Aimed at professionals in middle management positions, this course addresses the use of AI to improve decision-making and foster innovation in management roles.
4. **AI applied to Industrial Innovation and Business 4.0:** explores the impact of AI on the digital transformation of industry, showing how to implement AI solutions to promote innovation and efficiency in the context of Industry 4.0.
5. **Effective AI presentations:** Teach participants how to use AI to create more impactful and personalized presentations, improving the ability to capture and retain the audience's attention.
6. **ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence for Human Resources:** focused on how HR professionals can use AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to optimize hiring, employee engagement, and performance management processes.

Investing in AI training represents a key strategy for long-term growth and competitiveness, fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability essential in today's dynamic business environment. By choosing ValgrAI's tailor-made training, companies gain technical knowledge and

drive the development of innovative and sustainable solutions, consolidating their position as leaders in the digital age.

In 2023, some of the institutions or companies that have turned to ValgrAI for tailor-made training have been the **United Nations Information and Communications Technology Facility (UNICTF),** with the course "AI for leaders"; **Innova & Acción**, with the course "Artificial Intelligence to improve your company's processes"; and **Talenmo**, with the course "Artificial Intelligence oriented to the company and the business".
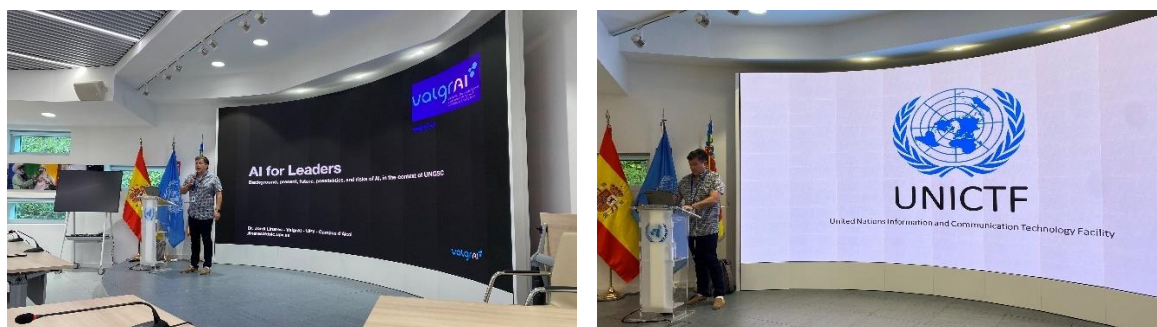
6.3.   Quick Learning

ValgrAI's Quick Learning course project has been brewing in parallel with other initiatives of the foundation and will formally begin in 2024. Quick Learning is designed to offer courses ranging in length from 2 to 20 hours, providing flexibility to students. This approach allows students to take them at their own pace, according to their personal preferences and professional needs, and from anywhere.

Quick Learning's proposal responds to the growing demand for autonomous learning in the field of artificial intelligence, providing access to quality educational content without the restrictions of fixed schedules or the need for face-to-face assistance. Courses will cover a wide range of topics within AI, from basic introductions to more specific and advanced aspects, ensuring that there is something valuable for every level of experience.

This project expands ValgrAI's educational offering and underlines the foundation's commitment to democratizing access to knowledge in artificial intelligence.

7.

EVENTS AND DISSEMINATION

7.   Events and dissemination

2023 has been a year full of enriching activities that have allowed ValgrAI to share knowledge and foster collaboration and networking within the AI community. This section highlights the most relevant training events and programs.

Some of the highlights were:

- **Hacia las fronteras de la Inteligencia Artificial y la computación de altas prestaciones (Towards the Frontiers of AI and High-Performance Computing)**: A seminar co-organized with Hewlett Packard Enterprise that brought together experts to discuss the latest advances and future challenges in AI.
- **Predictable AI – Evaluation, anticipation, and control**: Presentations and talks co-organized with José Hernández-Orallo, one of the researchers of our Joint Research Unit (UMI).
- **ValgrAI Scientific Council Forum:** ValgrAI's annual forum, in which we bring together a large part of the ValgrAI community and take place presentations and talks by members of our scientific council, predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers, members of the UMI and invited professionals.
- **I ValgrAI Artificial Intelligence CV Awards:** A ceremony that celebrated exceptional achievements in the research and application of AI, recognizing the best academic records, master's thesis, and doctoral thesis.

Through meetings with the members of our Joint Research Unit, seminars, webinars and participation and collaboration in other public events, ValgrAI has taken the knowledge of AI beyond academic circles, seeking to awaken interest, and understanding about the impact and possibilities of this technology among the general public.

Collectively, the events offered by ValgrAI in 2023 demonstrate our commitment to promoting knowledge, innovation, and collaboration in the field of AI, driving the personal and professional growth of our community.

7.1.   Featured events

Hacia las fronteras de la Inteligencia Artificial y la computación de altas prestaciones (Towards the Frontiers of AI and High-Performance Computing)

Event description: This event, organized in collaboration with Hewlett & Packard Enterprise, focused on understanding the challenges of artificial intelligence, its fields of application and its multiple benefits and how exascale computing helps to achieve them.
Date: February 9, 2023
Venue: Auditorio Cubo Azul – Universitat Politècnica de València
Speakers:
- Simón Viñals, Business Development Director for Spain and Portugal, AMD
- Adriano Galano, Sales Specialist AI & High-Performance Computing
- Enrique S. Quintana Ortí, Professor of Computer Architecture and Technology (UPV)
- Ignacio Blanquer, Professor of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence (UPV),

Link: Event ValgrAI & HPE
Attendees: 120

Predictable AI: Evaluation, Anticipation and Control

Event description: In collaboration with José Hernandez-Orallo and the Future of Life Institute, this event addressed the topic of AI predictability and consisted of talks, panels, brief highlights, and networking.
Date: March 8, 2023
Venue: Auditorio Cubo Azul – Universitat Politècnica de València
Speakers:
- Irina Rish - Mila, U. Montreal
- Emilia Gómez - JRC, European Commission
- Seán O'hEigeartaigh - University of Cambridge
- Alex Marcoci - University of Cambridge
- Lucy Cheke - University of Cambridge
- Joel Leibo – DeepMind
- Ida Momennejad - Microsoft Research

Attendees: 130
Link: Predictable AI Event

ValgrAI Scientific Council Forum 2023

Event description: The foundation's annual forum that brings together ValgrAI pre- and postdoctoral researchers, as well as members of the Scientific Council, to discuss the latest advances in AI.

Date: July 4, 2023
Venue: Auditorio Cubo Azul – Universitat Politècnica de València
Speakers:

- Tom Dietterich
- Marco Dorigo
- Jesús Hijas
- ValgrAI Predoctoral Researchers (12)
- ValgrAI Postdoctoral Researchers (6)

Attendees: 260
Link: ValgrAI Scientific Council Forum 2023

During the ValgrAI Scientific Council Forum 2023, collaborating companies played a crucial role by setting up information booths, thus providing a unique opportunity for participants to learn directly about the latest developments and applications of AI in the business sector. This space allowed attendees to interact closely with representatives of leading companies, deepening their understanding of how artificial intelligence is transforming various industries.

In addition, the "AI Challenge" stood out as an innovative component of the event, challenging participants to generate creative ideas and AI-based solutions to real business problems, thus fostering collaboration and critical thinking among students, researchers, and practitioners.

I Premios ValgrAI Inteligencia Artificial Comunitat Valenciana y Mesa redonda

Event description: An annual event that aims to reward significant AI contributions from our ValgrAI Community. In addition, before the awards ceremony, the round table "Unveiling the Future: Challenges and reflections on General Purpose Artificial Intelligence" took place, led by Vicente Botti and with the collaboration of Ramon López de Mántaras, Jesús Conill and José Hernández Orallo.
Date: December 18, 2023
Venue: Salón de Actos – Facultad Ciencias de la Salud – Universitat Jaume I de Castelló
Round table title: "Desvelando el Futuro: Desafíos y reflexiones sobre la Inteligencia Artificial de Propósito General" ("Unveiling the Future: Challenges and Reflections on General Purpose Artificial Intelligence")

Speakers:

- Vicente Botti
- Ramon López de Mántaras
- Jesús Conill
- José Hernández Orallo

Attendees: 220
Link: I Premios ValgrAI Inteligencia Artificial Comunitat Valenciana 2023
Link: I Premios ValgrAI Inteligencia Artificial Comunitat Valenciana 2023 – Round table

The great media impact achieved, reflected in the extensive coverage by both digital and television media and in interactions on social networks, has been a crucial component in amplifying the impact of ValgrAI on the scientific and technological community, as well as on society at large. The following links detail the celebration of the awards, evidencing the recognition of talent in Artificial Intelligence of Valencian public universities, which underlines the importance and success of the event in the promotion and dissemination of AI in the Valencian Region:

- Levante EMV: Los I Premios ValgrAI celebran la excelencia del talento en Inteligencia Artificial de las universidades públicas valencianas
- Castellón Plaza: Los premios ValgrAI reconocen en la UJI el talento en IA de las universidades públicas valencianas

- Noticias CV: [Los I Premios ValgrAI celebran la excelencia del talento en Inteligencia Artificial de las universidades públicas valencianas](#)
- Sempre València: [Los I Premios ValgrAI celebran la excelencia del talento en Inteligencia Artificial de las universidades públicas valencianas](#)
- El Periòdic: [Los I Premios ValgrAI celebran la excelencia del talento en Inteligencia Artificial de las universidades públicas valencianas](#)
- Valencia Noticias: [Los I Premios ValgrAI celebran la excelencia del talento en Inteligencia Artificial de las universidades públicas valencianas](#)
- TyN Magazine: [Premios ValgrAI celebran la excelencia del talento en IA en Valencia](#)
- ESDiario: [ValgrAI premia el talento en Inteligencia Artificial](#)
- RDS Televisión: [RDS – 669](#)
- À Punt: [26.12.2023 | Cadena de valor](#)

7.2. Dissemination events

Evaluating General-Purpose AI

Event description: This event focused on the evaluation of general-purpose AI.

Date: May 18, 2023

Venue: Salón de actos ETSINF - Universitat Politècnica de València

Speakers:
- Dr Ryan Burnell, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge, UK
- Prof Anthony Cohn, School of Computing, University of Leeds and the Turing Institute, UK

Attendees: 20

Link: [Evaluating General-Purpose AI](#)

I Morning Research Meeting

Event description: A series of online events/meetings where researchers from the ValgrAI Community showcase their research and projects and share them with the rest of the community to receive feedback and generate synergies.
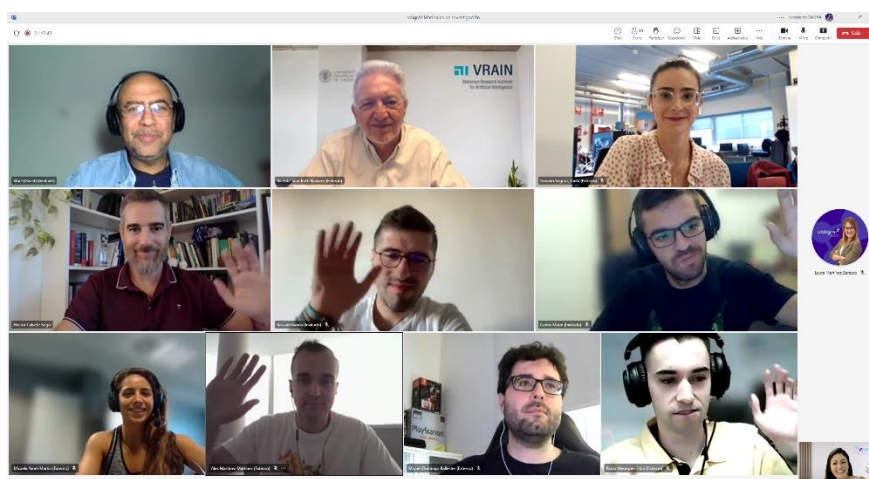
Date: October 6, 2023

Venue: Online

Speakers:

- Bassam Pierre Hanna
- Wael El-Deredy

Attendees: 13

Link: I ValgrAI Matinal de Investigación: El Cerebro como Sistema Dinámico

II Morning Research Meeting

Event description: A series of online events/meetings where researchers from the ValgrAI Community showcase their research and projects and share them with the rest of the community to receive feedback and generate synergies.

Date: November 3, 2023

Venue: Online

Speakers:

- Ana-Maria Bucur
- Alex Martínez Martínez

Attendees: 17

Link: II ValgrAI Matinal de Investigación

III Morning Research Meeting

Event description: A series of online events/meetings where researchers from the ValgrAI Community showcase their research and projects and share them with the rest of the community to receive feedback and generate synergies.

Date: December 1, 2023

Venue: Online

Speakers:
- Miguel Domingo
- Wael El-Deredy

Attendees: 15

Link: III Matinal de investigación

Webinar Transformando texto a conocimiento (Transforming text to knowledge)

Event description: On the occasion of the launch of the Natural Language Processing Expert Course, Professor Andres Montoyo gave an online talk on NLP, Large Language Models and Generative AI. Esther Cerveró, head of the AIIA project and communication at ValgrAI, introduced the project to the attendees.
Date: December 21, 2023
Venue: Online
Speakers:
- Esther Cerveró
- Juan Andrés Montoyo
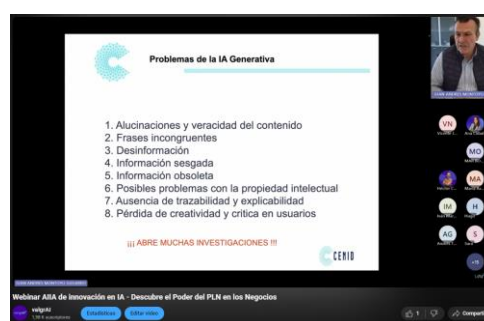
7.3.   Joint Research Unit Meetings

I ValgrAI JRC Meeting

Event description: Recurring meetings that bring together the members of the Joint Research Unit to discuss the advancement and application of AI in order to generate synergies among the members of the group.
Date: May 26, 2023
Venue: Sala de conferencias DSIC - Universitat Politècnica de València
Speakers:
- Valery Naranjo
- Francisco Casacuberta
- Paco Macià
- Eva Vallada
- Rafael Berlanga
- Gustau Camps
- Alexander Sánchez Díaz
- Jose D. Martin
- José Hernández-Orallo
- Fernando Lopez Mir
- Alberto Ferrer-Riquelme

Attendees: 20

II ValgrAI JRC Meeting

Event description: Recurring meetings that bring together the members of the Joint Research Unit to discuss the advancement and application of AI in order to generate synergies among the members of the group.

Date: October 30, 2023

Venue: Auditorio La Nau – Universitat de València

Speakers:

- Vicent Botti
- Ana Cidad
- Emilio Soria-Olivas
- Paolo Rosso
- Lorenzo Cotino
- José Martín Guerrero
- Raul Montoliu
- Carlos Marín
- Joaquín Taverner

Attendees: 35

**Link:** 2º Encuentro Unidad Mixta de Investigación de ValgrAI

7.4. Collaborations

Demos 2023 – Asociación Española de Fundaciones

Date: September 24-25

Venue: Matadero Madrid

Purpose of the cooperation: ValgrAI had the privilege of participating in the Demos 2023 event, where we presented a booth to demonstrate the transformative potential of artificial intelligence in various sectors. This participation gave us the opportunity to showcase how AI can be a powerful tool to optimize processes, improve decision-making, generate significant innovations, while allowing us to strengthen our relationship with the Spanish Association of Foundations. Through interactive demonstrations, we personalize the experience for each visitor, showcasing practical applications of AI specific to their areas of interest. This straightforward and tailored approach ensured that each participant could visualise the positive impact that AI could have on their sector, thus fostering a constructive dialogue on the adoption and integration of these advanced technologies.
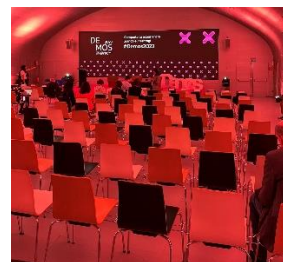
CEV PYMES Conference

Date: November 15, 2023

Venue: Auditorio CEV | Calle Hernán Cortes 4, València

Speakers:
- Eva Blasco, president of CEV Valencia
- Paula Llobet Vilarrasa, Councillor for Innovation, Technology, Digital Agenda, and Investment Attraction of the Valencia City Council.
- Vicente Juan Botti Navarro, General Director of valgrAI
- Ana Cidad Vila, Managing Director of valgrAI
- Jordi Joan Linares Pellicer, academic coordinator of valgrAI

Title: AI for SMEs / Training and innovation in the use of AI for managers and technical staff of SMEs – Artificial Intelligence Innovation Alliance / Practical examples of processes in which we can apply AI in our SMEs.

Attendees: 40

Desayunos Xarxatec (Xarxatec Breakfast)

Date: November 30, 2023

Venue: Castellón (C/Mayor, 78 (Instalaciones Consell))

Speakers:

- Emilio Soria (Professor and Director of the Master's Degree in Data Science at UV)
- Ana Cidad (Managing Director of ValgrAI)
- Federico Piñuela (Data Science & AI Manager de IOTSENS - GIDITEK)
- Marián Hernández (Head of Talent de DQS)

Event description: Innovation Breakfast hosted by XarxaTec, an event that served as an essential meeting point for technology professionals and enthusiasts, with a particular focus on Artificial Intelligence. We were not only invited, but we played a central role in it, sharing knowledge and experiences with the technological community present.

8.

COMUNICATION
AND PRESS

8. Communication and press

2023 has been a year of remarkable expansion in our outreach and communication strategies, employing multiple platforms to reach a global and diverse audience. ValgrAI has established itself not only as a center of excellence in AI, but also as a benchmark for the media. The visibility achieved reinforces our leadership and commitment to the dissemination of knowledge.

- **Digital platforms and social media**: We have intensified our presence on social networks such as LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube, achieving significant growth in followers and engagement. The creation of valuable content, from specialized articles to webinars and presentations, has been key to this success. In addition, the creation of accessible educational material, including videos, blog articles, and guides, has been key in our efforts to democratize access to knowledge in AI, facilitating autonomous learning and promoting curiosity and innovation.

- **Press appearances**: ValgrAI has been the subject of numerous articles, reports, and interviews throughout the year, reflecting the growing interest in our work in the field of AI. These appearances in national and international media have served to highlight our research projects, events, and achievements, contributing to a greater public understanding of the importance of AI.

- **ValgrAI Portal and CRM:** The implementation of our CRM and the renovation of our web portal have drastically improved the management of relationships with students, collaborators, suppliers, and other companies, facilitating the dissemination of information, registration for events and interaction with our community.

The combination of an active presence on social media and in the press has reinforced ValgrAI's image as a leading entity in AI research and dissemination, promoting a greater reach and impact of our activities.

8.1. Digital platforms

The implementation of ValgrAI's new website marked an important milestone in our rebranding process, successfully reflecting our renewed brand identity. Initially, a version of the site was launched with the essential sections, ensuring a solid and functional online presence from the start. This strategy allowed us to maintain a smooth transition to the new brand image, without compromising the quality or accessibility of our website for users.

Throughout the year, we have adopted a dynamic and adaptive approach to the development of our website, expanding its structure with new sections in response to the growing needs of the

foundation to publicize its research activities, promote technology transfer, and position itself as a benchmark entity in training and dissemination in AI.

The inclusion of many articles, news and events has kept our website updated and moving, making it an indispensable tool to communicate our initiatives, achievements and events close to our audience.

We've incorporated vital pages, such as ValgrAI Careers, to make it easier to connect with potential candidates; the JRU Scientific Report page, highlighting our advances and contributions to the field of artificial intelligence; the Transparency Portal, reaffirming our commitment to honesty and openness; Customized training, offering customized educational solutions for companies; as well as the Software and Patents section, which underlines our capacity for innovation and technological development.
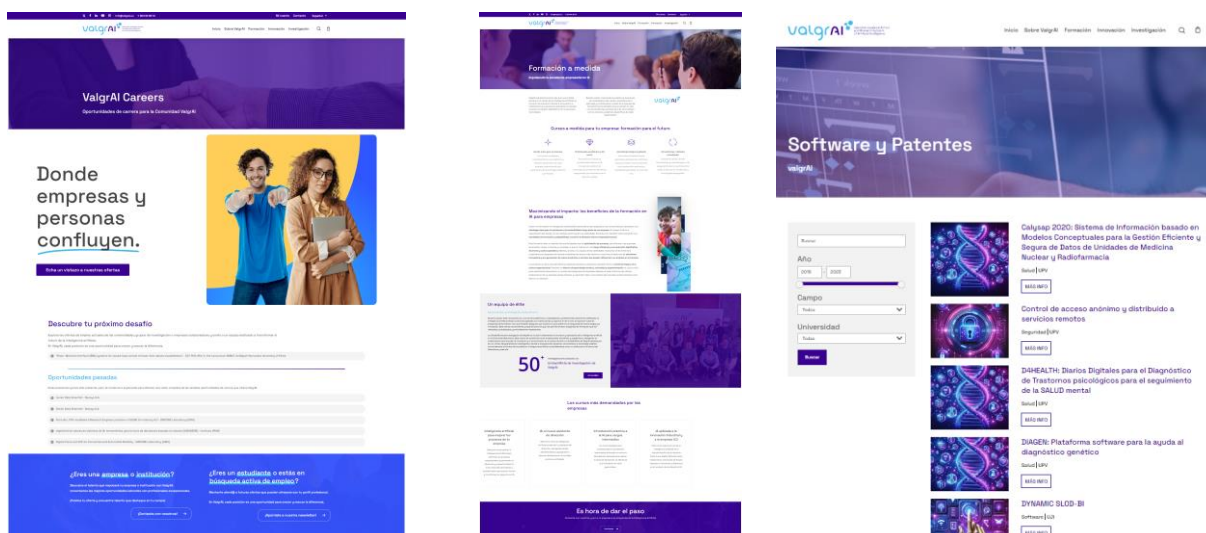
In addition, sections of specific interest have been added, such as the Visual Identity Manual. This section serves as an essential reference point for the entire ValgrAI community, providing direct access to our hallmark. It makes it easy for our members, when participating in events, speaking engagements, or representing our brand in any context, to easily find the resources needed to maintain ValgrAI's consistency and visual integrity. This manual becomes a key tool to ensure that the representation of our identity is uniform and professional in all areas, thus strengthening our image and recognition at a global level.

Manual de Identidad Visual

Explorando la Identidad Visual de ValgrAI

Bienvenidos a la página de Identidad Visual de ValgrAI, donde la **innovación y la creatividad se fusionan** para dar forma a una **imagen visual única y memorable**. En ValgrAI, no solo somos pioneros en soluciones de Inteligencia Artificial, sino que también nos esforzamos en crear una marca que resuene con nuestros valores, nuestra visión y, lo más importante, con nuestra comunidad.

Nuestra identidad visual es mucho más que un conjunto de colores o un logo; es la **narrativa visual de un viaje lleno de avances tecnológicos, compromiso con la excelencia y una pasión por la formación e innovación**.

Desde el logo que captura nuestra esencia, pasando por la paleta de colores que refleja nuestra energía, espíritu y modernidad, hasta la tipografía que comunica nuestra voz; cada detalle ha sido cuidadosamente elegido para crear una **conexión genuina y duradera con aquellos que nos acompañan en esta aventura tecnológica**.

Diversidad y adaptabilidad: las cuatro caras de nuestro logo

En ValgrAI, comprendemos la importancia de una identidad visual coherente y versátil. Nuestro logo, un símbolo distintivo de nuestra marca, ha sido diseñado para reflejar estos valores fundamentales.

Presentamos cuatro versiones únicas de nuestro

Logo a color sobre fondo claro

Energía y color, ideal para destacar en entornos claros.

Logo a color sobre fondo oscuro

Elegancia y sofisticación, diseñado para impactar.

This step-by-step and thoughtful approach to expanding our website has not only allowed for a smooth adaptation to ValgrAI's new identity but has also ensured that our online presence remains relevant, informative, and accessible to all stakeholders. The ValgrAI website has established itself as a key resource, not only for sharing information, but as a strategic platform for engaging with our community, promoting education and research, and strengthening our position as leaders in the field of artificial intelligence.

Image 1 - Current website and caption with thanks to the GVA

The renovation of the ValgrAI website in 2023 has played a key role in disseminating our research activities and promoting master's programs and predoctoral and postdoctoral scholarships. Our work in promoting master's programs and scholarships has not only underscored our leadership in AI research but has also fostered the training of future generations of AI experts. Through these efforts, ValgrAI continues to strengthen its position as a leading entity in the advancement and application of artificial intelligence, committed to the expansion of knowledge and technological development in this crucial field.


8.2. Social media

In the last year, our social media presence has experienced remarkable growth, reflecting the success of our digital marketing and communication strategy. Similar to YouTube, we've seen a significant increase in our audience, especially on LinkedIn and Instagram. These platforms have become the main focus of our outreach efforts, closely aligning with the profile of our target audience. Meanwhile, X (formerly known as Twitter) and Facebook have moved on to play more secondary roles in our social media strategy.

This remarkable advance in our networks is due, to a large extent, to the increase in organic publications and investment in advertising agencies specializing in social networks and programmatic advertising. This strategic move has amplified our reach exponentially, allowing us to connect with a much wider and more diverse audience. Targeted advertising and campaign optimization have multiplied the visibility of our content, which has contributed significantly to our growth on these platforms.

Social media followers growth in 2023

Instagram — LinkedIn — X (Twitter)
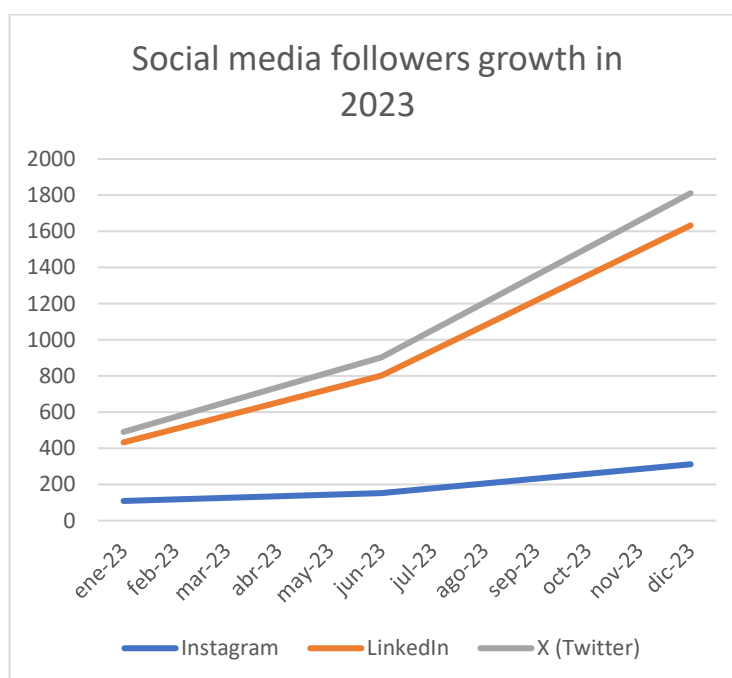
LinkedIn and Instagram have seen an impressive increase in engagement and follower count, cementing our position as a leading entity in the dissemination of knowledge about artificial intelligence. The creation of high-quality outreach, research, and event programming content, along with a well-defined communication strategy and the effective use of programmatic advertising, has enabled ValgrAI to strengthen its online community.

As part of our strategy to consolidate and expand ValgrAI's digital presence, the **#ValgrAICommunity** on LinkedIn represents a key effort to foster an online link between students, researchers, and companies. This group aims to be a dynamic space where our community can share articles, opinions, concerns, and any other information related to artificial intelligence. Even though the group was created to stimulate interaction and knowledge sharing among members, we have observed that it has not managed to generate the amount of interaction expected so far. Despite this, for the year 2024, we have grand expectations for the increase in activity within the #ValgrAICommunity. With the powerful base of predoctoral and postdoctoral researchers that are part of ValgrAI, along with the introduction of new courses, the growing network of Alumni and the overall increase in our community, we are confident that we will see a noticeable increase in interaction and engagement within the group.

In short, investing in human resources and specialized advertising has been crucial to our success in social media, allowing us to expand our audience and deepen the quality of our interactions. These efforts have redefined our digital presence, marking a significant change in the way ValgrAI communicates and engages with its global community.

In addition, it is important to note that, throughout the year, we have maintained a privileged position in the field of social networks compared to other institutes and schools dedicated to similar topics. We have firmly established ourselves in second place, only behind the Barcelona School of Economics, whose fan base far exceeds ours. This achievement is especially significant given the intense competition in the digital space to capture the attention and interest of audiences interested in artificial intelligence and technology.

Análisis

Contenido   Visitantes   Seguidores   Contactos   **Competencia**

7 feb 2023 - 31 dic 2023 ▾   Editar competencia   ⬇ Exportar

Datos de seguidores ❓   Ordenado por el número de nuevos seguidores

Página		Total de seguidores	Nuevos seguidores
1	Barcelona School of Economics	14.104	2133
2	valgrAI	1465	960
3	Ciudad Politécnica de la Innovación UPV	3451	933
4	VRAIN - Valencian Research Institute for Artificial Intelli...	1575	698
5	Lucentia Research	63	18
6	School of AI - Valencia chapter	311	12
7	AI4AI	44	0

- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/valgrai
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/valgrai/
- YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/@valgrai

- Twitter: https://twitter.com/fvalgrai

8.3. YouTube dissemination

In ValgrAI's 2022 activity report, we proposed using YouTube as one of the fundamental tools to meet one of its objectives: the dissemination of knowledge. And that is the goal we have pursued during the year 2023.

As part of our AI outreach and education project, ValgrAI's YouTube channel has played a crucial role in reaching and exceeding our set goals. At the time of presenting last year's activity report, our channel had a modest base of 24 followers. Throughout the year, we have experienced exponential growth, reaching a total of 1759 followers. This remarkable increase, which represents an increase of **7,325.17%,** is a testament to the impact and relevance of our content in the AI community.
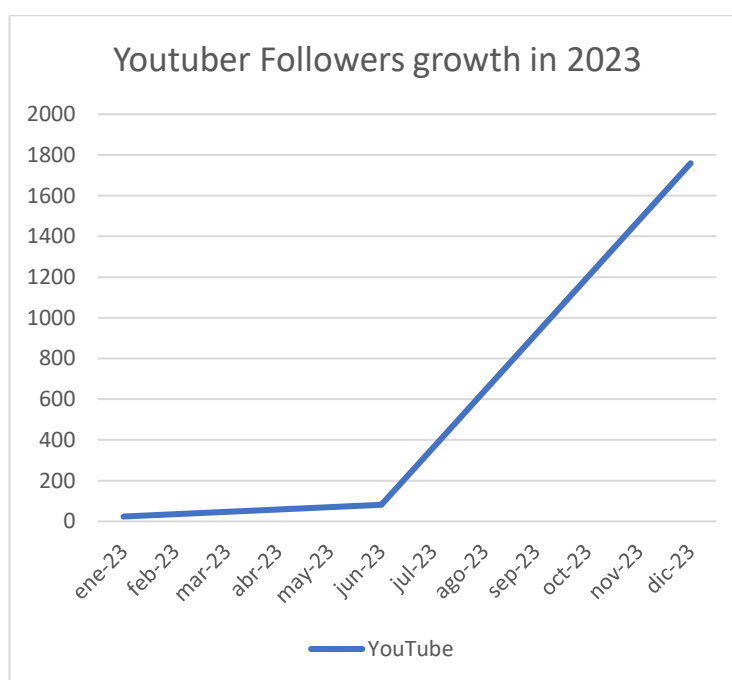

This success has been achieved through a focused and meticulous strategy, which included the recording and publication of all outreach events, as well as detailed work on descriptions and the strategic use of keywords for the SEO positioning of each video. We do not just upload raw content; We also segmented the presentations to offer one-on-one talks, which allowed us to capture the interest of specific audiences by looking for specific topics of interest to them. This tactic has helped us grow in the number of followers and has increased the visibility and reach of our message.

A highlight was the video "What's wrong with LLMs and what we should be building instead", presented by Tom Dietterich, member of the ValgrAI scientific council, during the "ValgrAI Scientific Council Forum 2023". This event is one of the pillars of our foundation, bringing together students, companies and researchers in a forum dedicated to discussing the future of artificial intelligence. At the end of 2023, the video had 123,000 views, making it the most viewed video on our channel, which reflects a clear indication of the interest and demand for quality content on artificial intelligence.

The strategy adopted for our YouTube channel has proven to be effective in increasing our follower base and positioning ValgrAI as a leader in the dissemination of knowledge about artificial intelligence. This growth is reflected both in the success of our communication and marketing tactics, as well as in our commitment to democratizing access to knowledge in artificial intelligence, reaffirming our mission and core values.
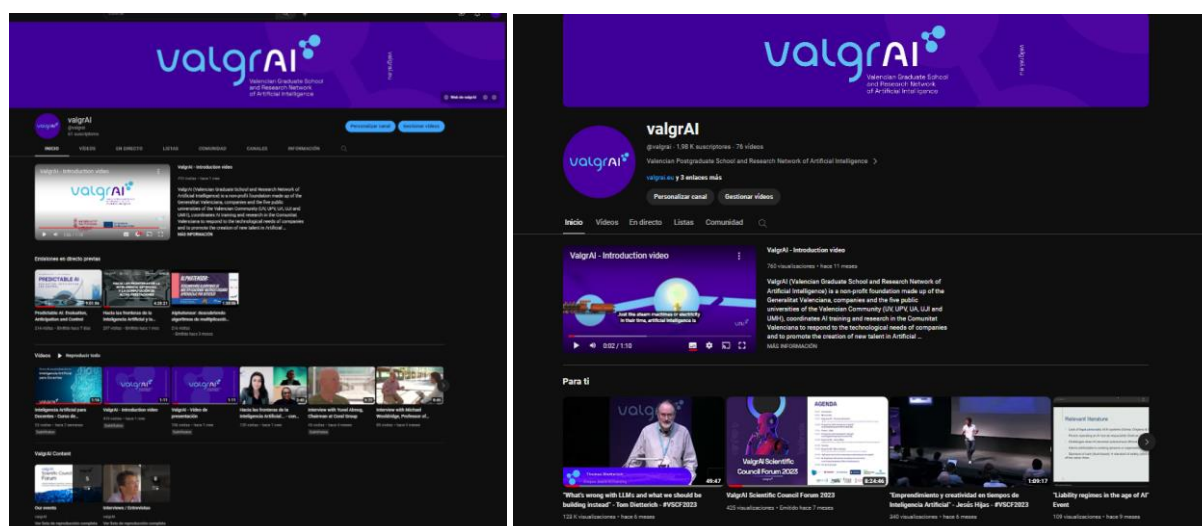
8.4. Press appearances

During this period, reports and interviews have been managed in various media, highlighting the interest that ValgrAI is arousing at an informative level, which responds to the communication strategy proposed where one of the objectives is to turn the foundation into a source of information on Artificial Intelligence. All this has resulted in more than 60 impacts in both specialized and generalist media, which include written, digital, radio and television press.

Some of this year's press appearances have been:

- **Castellón Plaza (01-03-2023) -** https://castellonplaza.com/uji-primera-universidad-publica-valenciana-master-universitario-mencion-dual
- **Economía3 (25-04-23)** - https://economia3.com/2023/04/21/567339-la-semana-informatica-2023-reflexiona-sobre-los-retos-en-la-decada-digital/
- **El País (29-04-23) -** https://elpais.com/espana/comunidad-valenciana/2023-04-29/aprendizaje-inteligente-mucho-mas-que-chatgpt.html
- **Las Provincias (02-05-23) -** https://www.lasprovincias.es/economia/startups/empleos-amenazados-inteligencia-artificial-20230501003121-nt.html
- **El País (English Version) (03-05-23)** - https://english.elpais.com/science-tech/2023-05-03/jose-hernandez-orallo-ai-expert-we-cant-use-human-measures-to-evaluate-artificial-intelligence.html
- **Microsoft (17-05-2023) -** https://news.microsoft.com/es-es/2023/05/17/valgrai-y-microsoft-colaboran-para-impulsar-la-formacion-en-ia-y-potenciar-la-empleabilidad/
- **À Punt Media (02-06-23) -** https://www.apuntmedia.es/programes/cadena-de-valor/programes-radio/02-06-2023-cadena-valor-l-economia-l-atencio-persones-majors_135_1620177.html
- **Valencia Plaza (14-06-23) -** https://valenciaplaza.com/asi-funcionara-el-observatorio-de-la-inteligencia-artificial-de-la-comunitat-valenciana
- **Levante EMV (29-06-23)** - https://www.levante-emv.com/innovadores/2023/06/29/retos-inteligencia-artificial-cev-levante-emv-89286199.html
- **Castellón Plaza (05-09-23) -** https://castellonplaza.com/ceei-castellon-acoge-jornada-abordar-inteligencia-artificial-etica-legalidad
- **Europa Press (31-10-23) -** La inteligencia artificial de las universidades valencianas detecta bulos, clona voces y modela sistemas socioeconómicos
- **Valencia Plaza (13-11-23) -** Convocan los I Premios de Inteligencia Artificial Comunitat Valenciana
- **La Vanguardia (15-11-23)** - CEV y ValgraAI llaman a las pymes a "perder el miedo" a la inteligencia artificial
- **Noticias CV (3-12-23)** - La Conselleria de Educación, Universidades y Empleo invierte 1,6 millones en la inteligencia artificial a través de la Fundación ValgrAI
- **El periódico de aquí (13-12-23)** - ValgrAI concede 24 ayudas de formación predoctoral y postdoctoral para posicionar los pro

- **Levante EMV (19-12-23) -** <u>Los I Premios ValgrAI celebran la excelencia del talento en Inteligencia Artificial de las universidades públicas valencianas</u>

In the same way, a collaborative relationship has been established with the media, as a result of a communication strategy where an image of ValgrAI of reliability, trust and specialized source has been projected when addressing the different aspects of Artificial Intelligence and associated disciplines. This fact has led to ValgrAI being used to prepare different reports or interviews.
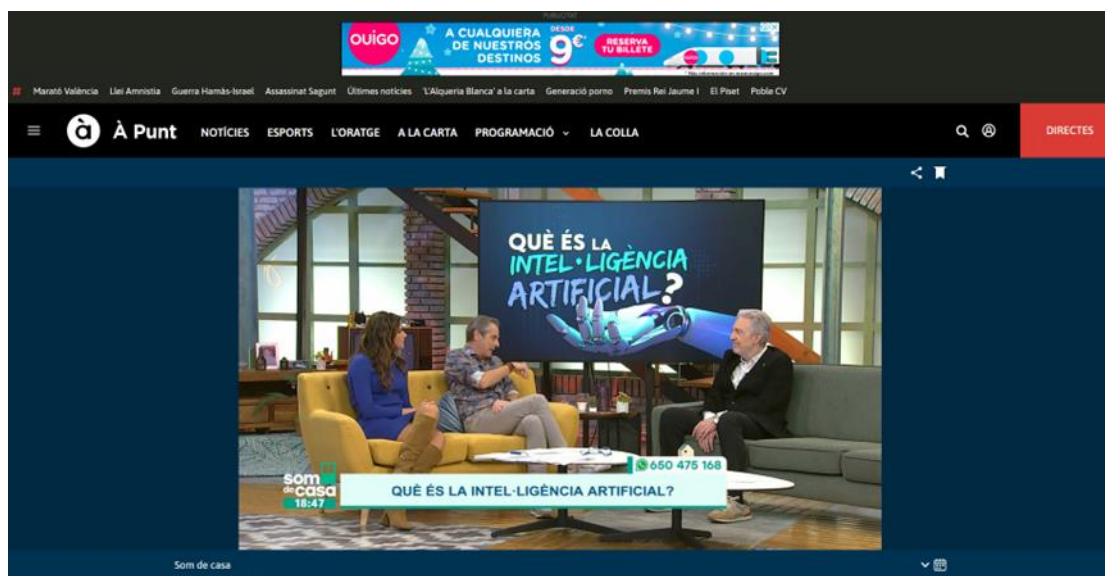
8.5.   ERP / CRM and Portal.valgrai.eu implementation

The implementation of portal.valgrai.eu is a key component of our digital transformation strategy at ValgrAI. The integration of ERP and CRM systems into a single platform demonstrates our commitment to innovation and digitalization, allowing us to automate key tasks, from lead capture and communications management to financial administration and project management.

This digitalization strategy aims not only to improve internal operations, but also to enrich the experience of our community. With tools such as email marketing and a personalized newsletter, we have been able to establish a direct and effective communication channel, which allows us to proactively share relevant news, events, and developments with our audience, thus strengthening our relationship and increasing engagement. Portal.valgrai.eu's ability to integrate form results directly into our database represents a crucial step in automating our marketing and communication processes, allowing us efficient segmentation and detailed analysis of our different audiences.

The Administration and Finance module highlights our quest for a more efficient and transparent management of resources, essential for the justification of public aid and the management of complex collaborations. The implementation of this digital solution reflects our vision for end-to-end, automated management that supports our financial operations, community engagement, and project management and underscores our commitment to adopting advanced technology solutions to drive innovation and leadership in the field of artificial intelligence.

Image 2: Portal.valgrai.eu main page (internal)

## 8.6.   Results of rebranding and merchandising

A year after implementing ValgrAI's rebranding in 2022, it's clear that the new brand image has become firmly entrenched in today's landscape and has been comprehensively adopted across all our communications and formats. The cohesion and visual consistency that we have achieved thanks to this update have reinforced our corporate identity during 2023, making it more recognizable and relevant both for our target audience and for the sector in general.

The modernization has had an immediate positive impact, reflected in the way our audience perceives and engages with ValgrAI. The vibrant color palette, coupled with a streamlined and clean design, conveys our dedication to technology and innovation and highlights our spirit of community and collaboration. This approach has proven to be effective, as our presence at events and on social media has gained significant visibility and recognition.

In addition, the development and distribution of promotional material and merchandising following the new brand image have further strengthened our presence in the market. The designed items are an extension of our visual identity and have served as effective tools to increase engagement with our community and promote the ValgrAI vision. From office supplies, such as pens or notebooks, to roll ups and photocalls for events.
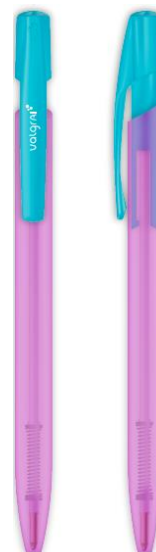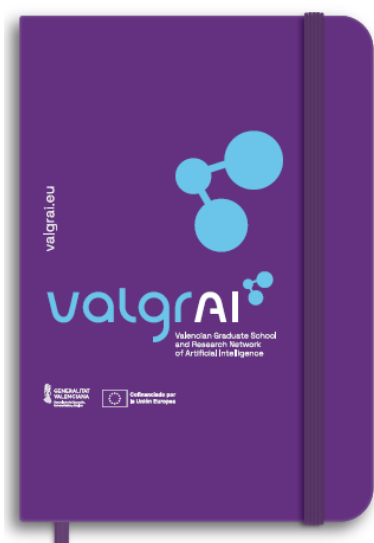
The new image has played a crucial role in improving our communication and positioning. This consistency in our visual identity allows us to look to the future with confidence, ready to continue growing and evolving in an increasingly competitive market. All these merchandising elements have been used in the informative events organized by ValgrAI.

9.

WHAT'S TO COME

9. What's to come

9.1. Talent generation

With the primary objective of enriching the Artificial Intelligence ecosystem and promoting the emergence of new talent in the Valencian Region, various strategies aimed at education and specialized training will be implemented. Firstly, we will strengthen our collaboration with public universities by supporting and promoting existing university master's degrees in Artificial Intelligence. This initiative will be complemented by the launch of our Quick Learning section, a series of short courses designed to provide up-to-date training on the latest trends and advances in AI.

In addition, aware of the need to adapt training to the specific demands of the sector, personalized courses will be offered for companies and entities. This dual approach will enhance the skills of working professionals and contribute to the creation of a dynamic and constantly evolving learning community. To facilitate the job placement of our talents, a direct communication channel will be established with companies, disseminating AI-related job offers among our community.

Looking ahead to 2024, our focus on generating talent in the field of Artificial Intelligence will focus on the expansion and consolidation of our training offer. With the aim of establishing ourselves as a leader in specialized AI training, we will implement a series of strategic actions designed to maximize the impact and reach of our educational programs.

- **Take-off of ValgrAI's training offer**: we are committed to continuing with the promotion and support of university master's degrees in AI in the public universities of the Valencian Region, and to expand our offer with consolidated courses and their multiple editions, as well as introducing new courses in emerging areas. This diversification will make it possible to meet the training needs of a wider spectrum of students and professionals, thus strengthening their insertion or specialization in the labor market.

- **Incorporation of a training manager**: This figure will be essential to coordinate and expand our portfolio of courses, ensuring that they respond to the latest trends and market demands in AI and coordinating teachers, in addition to looking for potential clients.

- **Expansion of Quick Learning and Customized Training:** On the one hand, our Quick Learning program will be significantly expanded with more courses that may be of interest in the market. Some of the courses that will be offered in the first instance will be: "Python Essentials: 3-hour course for beginners", "Artificial Intelligence Regulations: Regulation and digital rights" and "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence". On the other hand, we aspire to become a benchmark in tailor-made training, offering educational solutions that precisely fit the specific needs of each entity. Our goal is to reach and train a greater number of

companies, consolidating our position as leaders in the offer of specialized and tailor-made training in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

- Deployment of new digital platforms for training: 2024 will be the year in which we complete the digital transformation of our foundation. This includes the development of **ValgrAI Careers**, the portal where companies and associations come together with ValgrAI and can find talent according to their needs; and the launch of our **Campus Virtual,** our advanced educational platform that will serve as a meeting point for students, professionals and AI enthusiasts. This digital space will facilitate access to high-quality training resources, discussion forums and networking opportunities, contributing significantly to our mission to promote continuous learning and collaboration in the field of AI. This digital transformation will allow us to offer a more flexible and accessible learning experience, expanding the scope of our training to a global audience.

- **Promotion of the Alumni community:** In its few years of history, ValgrAI has already consolidated a robust alumni database, as a result of its trajectory in the specialized training offer in Artificial Intelligence. This community includes master's students who have received our master's study aid and course students. Recognizing the value of this network, ValgrAI will embark on initiatives designed specifically for our alumni. These activities aim to strengthen the long-term relationship with our graduates, offering networking opportunities, access to exclusive events and discounts, among others.

- **Generation of teacher database:** In 2024, the new database of excellent teachers will be formalized and consolidated and integrated into the ValgrAI integrated management portal. Thanks to this new database, the aim is to have a wide catalogue of excellent teaching staff with well-identified experience in different areas, so that training solutions can be offered to companies and society in an agile way and with the highest quality.

This multifaceted approach to 2024 reflects our commitment to educational excellence in AI, innovation in training, and the development of a talent ecosystem capable of meeting the technological challenges of the future.

9.2. AI Research & Innovation

At ValgrAI, we recognize that research and innovation are the fundamental pillars for technological advancement, especially in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Our focus is on strengthening these areas through constant support for our researchers, who, with their passion for discovery and advancement, are essential to our success.

For 2024, we outline strategic initiatives such as the review of requirements for the incorporation of new research staff, the grant program for interdisciplinary projects, the presentation of competitive projects, support for junior researchers, the promotion of academic and industrial collaboration, and the commercialization of the technological offer. Each of these points is designed to significantly boost our contribution to the field of AI:

- Revision of requirements for research staff assigned to the UMI: This initiative proposes to update and optimize the selection criteria for our Joint Research Unit, with the aim of incorporating a greater number of consolidated and interdisciplinary research talent in our community. Through this effort, we seek to increase our research capacity and foster an environment rich in diversity of thought and interdisciplinary collaboration. This will result in more innovative projects and greater synergy between the different research groups.

- Grants Program for Interdisciplinary Projects: We will launch a funding program specially designed to support projects that cross traditional boundaries of disciplines, promoting the development of innovative solutions in AI. This program will seek to facilitate collaboration between different areas of expertise within ValgrAI, encouraging the creation of multidisciplinary teams that can address complex challenges with novel approaches.

- Presentation of competitive projects: During the first months of 2024, we continue to submit proposals for research projects to competitive grants, seeking to strengthen collaborations that allow us to boost our research and development. This strategic approach aims to ensure the financial stability of our institution, energize our community, and establish and strengthen ties with key entities that share our vision of advancing the application of artificial intelligence (AI) for the benefit of society and the economy. Specifically, in the first quarter of 2024, we have already submitted two project proposals. The first was presented to MINECO, with the RURAL-IA.edu project, an innovative artificial intelligence training program designed to close the digital divide in rural areas affected by structural problems of depopulation and unemployment, promoting essential digital skills and knowledge in AI among vulnerable groups. The second proposal was presented to the AEI, in the call for Public-Private Collaboration together with the company Edinn and the Universitat d'Alacant and is focused on the creation of a large multimodal language model, similar to ChatGPT, using proprietary and open-source tools. The total sum of the budgets for both projects amounts to more than 850,000 euros. In addition, we are proposing more project proposals for the year 2024 to organizations such as IVACE+i, MINECO and the European LIFE Program, among others, both in collaboration with other companies and entities, such as ValgrAI individually.

- Supporting junior researchers: We are committed to developing the next generation of AI leaders, which is why we look forward to expanding our fellowship and grant program for early-career researchers. This will include both seeking financial support and developing mentoring and collaboration opportunities with established researchers, providing a clear path for professional growth and innovation.

- Fostering academic and industrial collaboration: We will organize meetings and discussion forums between academia and companies to explore and promote the transfer of knowledge and technology in AI. These activities will be designed to identify collaboration opportunities that can be translated into joint R&D projects, thus accelerating the practical application of research, and strengthening the innovation ecosystem in our environment.

- Commercialization of the technological offer: Our strategy for 2024 also includes a strong commitment to the dissemination and commercialization of the results of our research. This will be achieved through the launch of a new R&D Services section on our website, which will clearly and attractively present our capabilities and technological solutions, thus facilitating the access of companies and institutions to our innovative potential and strengthening collaboration channels. Just as the Software and patents page was launched in 2023, the R&D services age will be launched in 2024, which will help the dissemination and commercialization of our capabilities.

Each initiative is designed to amplify our impact on AI research and innovation, supporting our researchers by pursuing cutting-edge solutions and fostering collaborations that accelerate technological progress.

9.3.   Cooperation and outreach

The dissemination of knowledge and cooperation between different actors are essential to create a solid and sustainable Artificial Intelligence ecosystem. To this end, both face-to-face and online events will be organized, including interviews and webinars, which will serve as platforms for discussion and exchange of ideas around AI. The Artificial Intelligence Innovation Alliance and the ValgrAI Community will be consolidated as central forums to foster relationships and cooperation between individuals and entities interested in AI.

These initiatives will be complemented by the promotion of participation in other associations and communities that can benefit from the development of AI. Finally, with the aim of recognizing and celebrating the most outstanding contributions in this field, the ValgrAI awards will be instituted in different categories, thus recognizing excellence and innovation in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

In the year 2024, our cooperation and outreach strategy will focus on strengthening the community around Artificial Intelligence through the implementation of innovative projects and the formalization of strategic alliances. These initiatives are designed to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the dissemination of AI advancements. One of the flagship projects of the year will be the Artificial Intelligence Innovation Alliance:

- **Artificial Intelligence Innovation Alliance (AIIA),** a project that brings together researchers, students, professionals, universities, research centres, companies and entities interested in innovation in AI, in order to foster an ecosystem of shared knowledge, technology and cooperation in the Valencian Innovation System, promote internationalisation and disseminate knowledge and technology.

To complement our efforts in cooperation and outreach, at ValgrAI we will continue to work on the **growth of the ValgrAI Community**, to foster synergies between all the pillars of ValgrAI; In the **publication of reports and projects**, through the documentation and dissemination of our achievements and significant projects, we recognize and value the work of our community, providing a source of inspiration and knowledge for future generations; **organization of free outreach events with experts in the field of AI and related disciplines**; and **expansion of collaborations and agreements**, with strategic alliances with entities from various sectors expand our reach and capacity to drive innovation in AI. In relation to this last point, in the first quarter of the year significant progress has already been made, signing different agreements with **COGITI**

Valencia, StartUp Valencia, Unió de Periodistes Valencians and Xarxatec, Professional Association of Valencian Journalists, FEMEVAL (Valencian Metallurgical Business Federation) and Valmetal Innovative Group; and with the incorporation of a new collaborating company: **Pangeanic**.

This comprehensive approach for 2024 reflects our unwavering commitment to promoting Artificial Intelligence and strengthening the ValgrAI community. Through these efforts, we not only seek to advance training, research, and innovation in AI, but also to create a collaborative environment that fosters technological development and its ethical and responsible application.