

AI.D NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 | MARCH 2025



Photo: AI.D Meeting

The tour was followed by the productive phase of the meeting, during which the partners discussed the current progress and upcoming aims for AI.D. The meeting was characterised by a lively exchange of ideas, joint problem-solving and strategic planning.

Thank you to everyone who attended, contributed and helped to organise such a dynamic and beneficial meeting.

Our Second AI.D Meeting at LUCA in Genk

From 28th of January to 29th of January our second AI.D project meeting took place in Genk, Belgium, at the LUCA School of Arts. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for collaboration, reflection and planning as we continued to develop our research and creative outputs.

The meeting included a tour of the LUCA campus, which is located in the Flanders region of Belgium. This gave participants the opportunity to explore the facilities and gain insight into the vibrant academic and artistic environment that serves as a backdrop for the visual work at AI.D.



Photo: AI.D Meeting

01/04



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Conference of the EU Horizon Project DEMOCRAT

On March 6th, 2025, A.I.D consortium member Lukas Fender presented a keynote at the conference of the DEMOCRAT project at the University of Applied Sciences in Düsseldorf, funded by the Horizon Europe Programme of the European Union. The talk, titled “Artificial Intelligence, Disinformation, and Digital Citizenship Education”, discussed



the challenges AI and disinformation pose to democratic societies and shared A.I.D’s project outcomes for digital citizenship education. A fruitful exchange between the two projects took place throughout the day. Particularly the animated videos produced by the A.I.D consortium were appreciated by the international audience. An elaborate conference report can be found on the University’s website.



Workshop at “IGS for Future”

Only six days later, on March 12th, 2025, Dr. Wolfgang Beutel, Lena Frey, and Lukas Fender (all Leibniz University of Hannover) offered a workshop at the “Day of Comprehensive Schools – Integrated Comprehensive Schools for Future”, organized by the Leibniz School of Education. Here, they introduced teachers from integrated comprehensive schools to the A.I.D project and gave insights into some of the already developed project results. During the workshop, the materials and different use cases were vividly discussed.

02/04



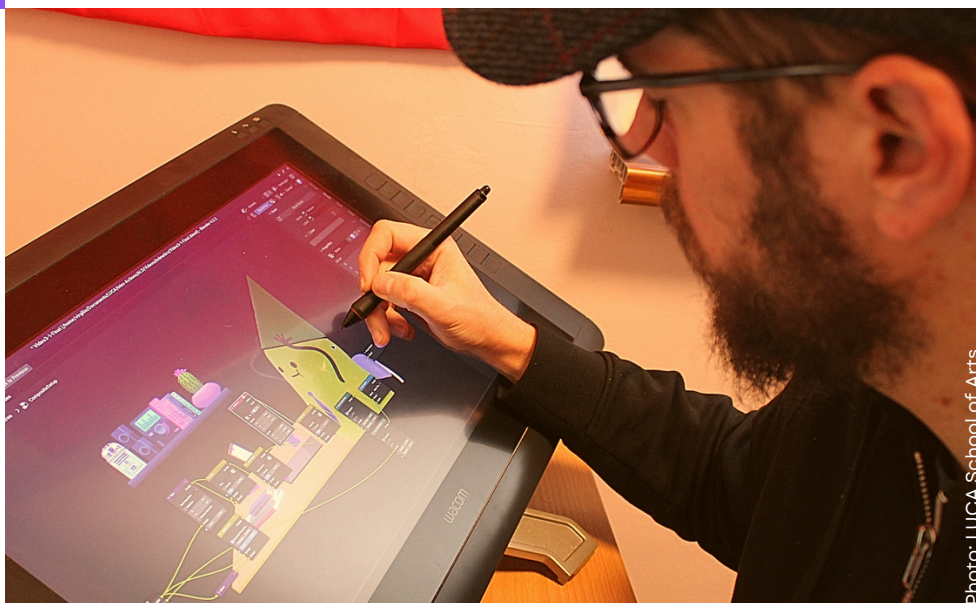
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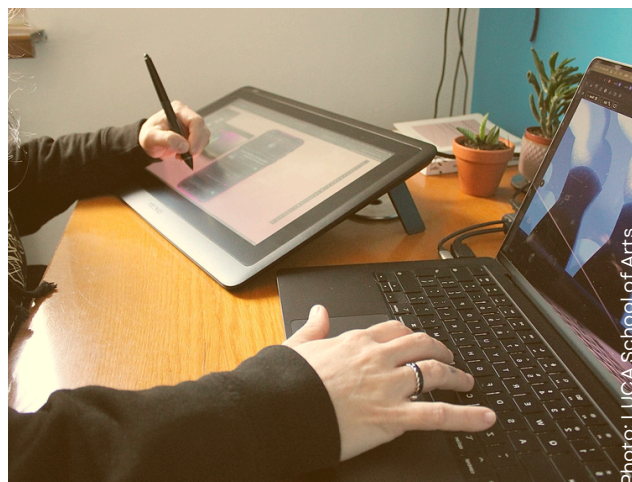
How AI.D's Videos are animated

The animated shorts created for AI.D are linked to the research cluster "Critical Reflections of and through Animation" from LUCA School of Arts, where practice-led research is informed by insights from fields such as Philosophy of Technology and Decolonial thinking. That allows for questioning animation methods, technologies, aesthetics and other relations to society such as its influence on culture or politics. For AI.D, we used a mixed approach where some Gen-AI tools were tested throughout all stages of production, together with traditional handcrafted processes using Free and Open-Source Software like Blender and Krita.



The AI tools provided satisfactory results for tasks such as simple narration, basic soundtrack creation, and transcription, but their results in other creative areas such as scriptwriting or image generation were mostly inadequate for use in the shorts. A few images seen in the videos, such as a slice of pizza or a bitten apple, were created using Gen-AI tools, but almost everything else was hand-crafted using Blender or Krita.

This is because the AI tools did not allow for fine control over elements such as style, character movement or camera, which are very basic elements that animation artists use to tell a story. This is necessary because animation artists typically take a "less is more" approach, where no element shown on screen is random: every character, object and action has a clear storytelling purpose, and the AI tools do not have this contextual creative problem-solving ability.



For example, what is shown visually does not always match what is heard: sometimes the images complement or even contradict the narrative, adding layers of interpretation and information. The AI-generated scripts and images are usually "flat" and lack the nuance needed to say "more" with "less".

***"AI may assist,
but the artist still
drives the vision."***



Photo: LUCA School of Arts

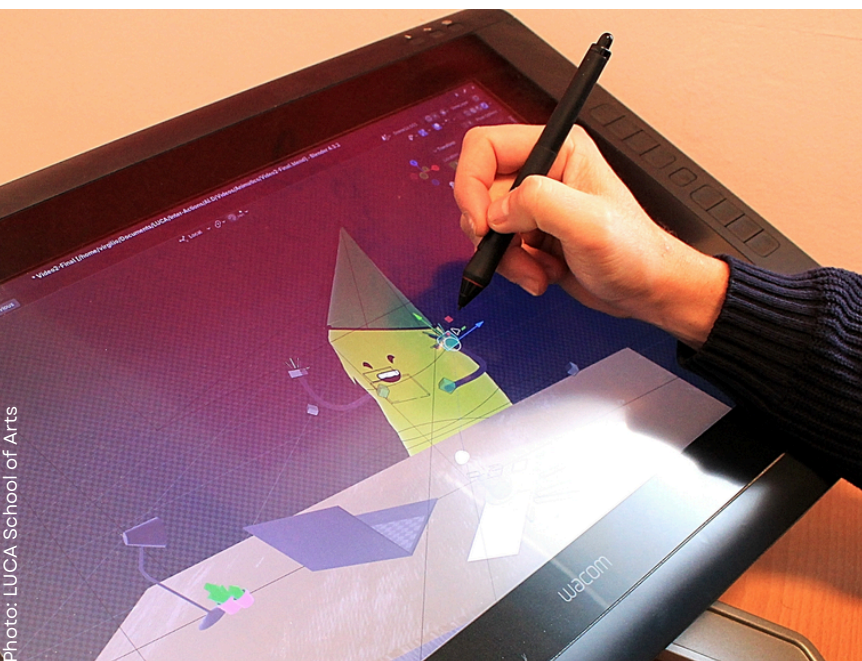


Photo: LUCA School of Arts

Therefore, they can be used for simple tasks such as "create an image of a pizza slice with tomatoes, cheese and mushrooms, seen from above", but not for creating a meaningful set of characters, actions and story that critically engages with the topic while ensuring that its message is simple but not simplistic, informative but not boring, entertaining but not alienating.

04/04



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